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PART XLVII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

96

March 1880.

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ERRATUM.

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AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March 1880.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XLVII.

No. 1.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 3. Political.) *Corfu, February* 25, 1880.

My Lord,

BY his despatch No. 8, Political, of the 29th April, 1879, my predecessor forwarded to your Lordship a Memorial he had received from certain Epirote refugees in this island, and who had been brought from the opposite coast by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" in February 1878, as reported to the Earl of Derby in the despatches, marked No. 12, Political, of the 28th February and No. 13 of the 4th March, 1878.

These unfortunate refugees have again been to this Consulate, and have brought me a statement of their case, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

They at the same time stated that, as they now only receive very small rations of bread, it is with the utmost difficulty that they can keep themselves from starvation.

At the first they received ample rations, and these were evidently supplied from the idea that these refugees would be useful in regard to the disturbances on the opposite coast, which were here hoped would again arise. The creation of disturbances being, however, now seen to be a more difficult matter, the rations have in consequence diminished.

With regard to the statement of the refugees as to the loss of their property, from conversations I have had on the subject with two gentlemen here, well acquainted with their case, I have reason to think that their assertions are not groundless.

The character of the late Ali Tepeleuly Pasha, the man who despoiled them of their property, is notorious all over Albania. When I was at Scutari I myself saw several who were in the same position as the refugees here, and who having been compelled to keep away from fear of being put out of the way altogether, as they said, by the Beys in possession of their property.

The principal point of view, however, I take of the case I am submitting to your Lordship, is this:—

The Porte has on its hands a very grave question, viz., that of the Turco-Greek frontier. The feelings of the Albanians on the subject are well known. It cannot, therefore, but be in the interest of the Porte to remove any cause of discontent in Albania where it is possible, and the present case is at least one worthy of consideration, from the allegations contained in the inclosed statement, all of which the refugees declare they are ready to substantiate.

My French colleague, who has also submitted the matter to his Government, entirely agrees in what I have stated to your Lordship. I have, therefore, further the honour to recommend their case to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorial.

LES Soussignés, représentants de la Commune de Licursi, située en Epire et dans le ressort de la province de Delvino, par la présente exposent la manière arbitraire qui les a privés de leurs droits.

Le village de Licursi, aujourd'hui en ruines, comptait 300 familles Chrétiennes possédant des maisons et des terrains d'une grande étendue, dont la culture faisait subsister les habitants. Comme tous les villages, celui de Licursi payait au Gouvernement Impérial la dîme et les autres impôts légitimes. Par malheur, les Beys Albanais de Delvino, Abdul et Suleiman Selim, intriguèrent et firent écrire, il y a longtemps, à Constantinople, que le village de Licursi n'était pas notre libre propriété, mais qu'il était tchiflick ; c'est-à-dire, que le fameux Ali Tépéleuly Pacha se l'était approprié avec plusieurs autres enlevés aux Chrétiens par la violence. Nous avons alors, en 1863, envoyé à Constantinople une députation composée de trois membres : le Papa Lazare, Athanase Tsoura, et Constantin Daico, pour réclamer à la Sublime Porte contre l'usurpation de notre village commise par les susdits Beys.

Après examen de l'inventaire des biens du fameux Ali Pacha, rédigé par une Commission envoyée à Janina en 1821, le Gouvernement trouva ce qui suit dans le Royal Haziné, relativement au village de Licursi : "Dans le dit village composé de 500 maisons était un vieux chateau en ruines qu'Ali Pacha fit restaurer et dont il confia le commandement aux Beys Cocata et Mustapha Agatas," sans que les Commissaires eussent mentionné que le village avait été fait tchiflick par le Pacha. Se basant sur cet Acte, le Gouvernement Impérial ordonna au Contrôleur du Cadastre de se prononcer, et une sentence décida que le village de Licursi était libre et non tchiflick. Cette sentence est entre nos mains. En vertu de cette décision la Sublime Porte envoya un ordre Viziriel au Gouverneur de Janina pour éloigner les Beys qui occupaient notre village ; mais les Beys usèrent de leur influence pour faire soutenir leur cause et ils éludèrent l'ordre. Il fallut envoyer un nouvel ordre au Gouverneur pour que les blés fussent emmagasinés et mis sous scellés par l'autorité locale, afin de les donner à qui de droit, après jugement de la contestation ; ce qui eut lieu en 1865. Le Conseil d'Etat, Abicami Adilie, saisi de la question, sur le vu des documents, c'est-à-dire la sentence du Contrôleur et l'inventaire des biens d'Ali Pacha, et sur les observations de nos Représentants, décida ce qui suit : "Attendu qu'une rente annuelle de 4,100 piastres a été constituée au Royal Haziné, vous aurez à la payer ainsi que les impôts ordinaires, et vous garderez le village."

Alors nos représentants acceptèrent bon gré mal gré la décision du Conseil d'Etat, et il fut convenu qu'on nous donnerait copie de cette décision avec des ordres pour que les Beys fussent éloignés et les blés emmagasinés distribués aux habitants du village. Trois jours après nos représentants étant allés réclamer les pièces promises, apprirent avec surprise qu'on venait de les envoyer à Janina où l'affaire serait mieux arrangée. On avait fait cela pour ne pas leur remettre ces documents, et par les intrigues de Mehemet Ali, fils d'Abdul Bey, alors Garde du corps de feu le Sultan Aziz, ou avait réussi à obtenir un tescheré d'un Vizir aujourd'hui décédé, dans lequel il était dit : "Tâchez de faire que le village libre de Licursi reste tchiflick des Beys." C'est en vain que nos malheureux représentants firent observer qu'à Janina ils ne pourraient obtenir justice en raison de l'influence que les Beys exerçaient dans le pays. Après d'inutiles protestations ils furent mis en prison avec les malfaiteurs dans le Zaptie Capu, et l'on ordonna de les renvoyer enchaînés et sous escorte à Janina. Craignant d'être assassinés en route, ils se virent contraints de résigner leurs pouvoirs par écrit, sans jamais pour cela renoncer à nos droits, pas plus que nous n'y renonçons nous-mêmes. C'est de cette façon qu'ils furent relâchés par l'entremise d'un Zarifi.

Par suite du désistement de nos représentants nos réclamations échouèrent, les blés furent partagés, nos souffrances augmentèrent, et nous eûmes à subir des vexations. Il nous fallut nourrir les gens que les Beys avaient placé comme intendants dans nos domaines, et cela jusqu'au mois de Février de l'année dernière. A ce moment, aigris par tant d'injustices, d'oppressions, et de tortures, voyant que malgré tous nos efforts nous ne pouvions rien obtenir du Devleti (Tribunal) et que les Beys continuaient à jouir de nos biens et de nos meurs [*sic*], nous nous jetâmes en désespérés aux bras de la révolution, dont nous attendions la délivrance. Mais, malheureusement, nous sommes tombés dans une situation pire encore, comme on le sait, et sans l'envoi du bâtiment de la Marine Royale Britannique le "Rapid," nos familles n'existeraient plus aujourd'hui. Exilés ici en face de notre terre natale, nous desirons vivement y retourner et y vivre sous l'égide puissante du Sultan, si l'on nous concède notre village, suivant la décision du

Conseil d'Etat, et si nous sommes assurés que dorénavant notre vie, nos biens, et notre honneur n'auront pas à souffrir.

Dans ce but nous avons aussi supplié M. le Consul-Général Ottoman, Conéménos Bey, résidant dans cette ville, de vouloir bien transmettre nos plaintes à Sa Majesté le Sultan, afin qu'il nous accorde l'amnistie pour les actes auxquels le désespoir nous a entraînés en voyant qu'après avoir travaillé aux récoltes avec nos bœufs, nos semailles, et notre argent, il nous fallait, en dehors de la dîme Royale et des impôts légitimes dus par les autres villages, payer encore le tiers de nos produits aux dits Beys, usurpateurs de nos biens, nourrir leurs hommes, sans rien garder pour nous du fruit de nos travaux.

Nous avons vivement supplié Sa Majesté le Sultan de nous rendre justice et de nous permettre de vivre sous son égide en fidèles sujets.

(Here follow a number of signatures.)

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1880.*

THE other day Count Schouvaloff, referring to the chances of the approaching General Election in England, observed to me that he was not at all of opinion that the advent of a Liberal Government to office would be an advantage to Russia. "For," said he, "the Liberals are besotted with the notion of expanding the Kingdom of Greece, and of extending the influence of the Greek race throughout the East, which would be a policy to which we should be bound to offer an absolute and eternal resistance."

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 3.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 92. ?)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 29, 1880.*

FOLLOWING from Michell, dated to-day :—

"Bulgarians now violently opposed to the Refugee Committee, due to knowledge and power it has acquired. They prevented ball and lottery being given. Most desirable Committee should continue to assist and protect Mussulmans for another month. As the object is political as well as charitable, your Excellency would, perhaps, kindly induce Foreign Office to give 500*l.*, if there is no prospect of getting the money elsewhere."

I hope to be able to furnish 500*l.* from the Compassionate Fund.

No. 4.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Colonel Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 1, 1880.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that after careful consideration of the question, his Lordship has come to the conclusion that the negotiations for the settlement of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey will be materially facilitated by the selection of an officer of the rank of General, and of the experience and standing which that rank implies, to act as Her Majesty's Commissioner.

Lord Salisbury has therefore proposed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War that Major-General Sir E. B. Hamley, who has recently acted as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Bulgarian frontier, should be delegated for this purpose.

In making this communication to you, Lord Salisbury wishes me to convey to you his appreciation of the important services which you have rendered to Her Majesty's Government on the Commission, and of the valuable suggestions which you have been able to make to the Turkish Government in regard to the northern part of the Asiatic frontier.

It is a matter of regret to his Lordship that considerations of policy should have rendered it desirable to transfer to other hands the management of a matter with which you have made yourself so thoroughly acquainted. I am to inclose a copy of the letter to the War Office on the subject of the proposed change, in which your services are fully acknowledged, and to add that Lord Salisbury trusts that the recommendation contained in it will not prove ineffectual.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 5.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Sir R. Thompson.

Foreign Office, March 1, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th March last relative to the appointment of Colonel F. C. H. Clarke, R.A., to be Her Majesty's Commissioner to take part in the demarcation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state that it appears desirable that this country should be represented upon the Commission by an officer of higher rank than Colonel Clarke, as the Russian Commissioner is a General.

Lord Salisbury would therefore suggest, for the consideration of Secretary Colonel Stanley, whether Major-General Sir E. B. Hamley might not be delegated with advantage to act on behalf of Great Britain on the reassembling of the Commission, which will take place at Constantinople in April next. The difficult questions connected with the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontier were managed by Sir E. Hamley with great discretion and judgment, and Lord Salisbury believes there is every reason to be satisfied with the results obtained.

Lord Salisbury will be very glad if it should be in Colonel Stanley's power to make any arrangement to compensate Colonel Clarke for the loss of the appointment of Commissioner. Lord Salisbury has a high opinion of Colonel Clarke's abilities, and believes that he took great interest in the work of the Commission, and furnished very valuable advice to the Turkish Government in regard to that portion of the frontier-line in the settlement of which he was unable to take part officially. His Lordship would therefore much regret that the change which is now necessary should convey an impression of failure on Colonel Clarke's part, or of dissatisfaction on the part of this Department.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 6.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 26.) [B.B.]

Sophia, February 16, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 6 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I have addressed to M. Natchovitz, calling his Excellency's attention to the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans in the district of Pravadi and Silistria, and strongly urging the adoption of measures to put an end to this deplorable state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

Sophia, le 13 *Février*, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que je viens de recevoir du Marquis de Salisbury des instructions d'appeler de nouveau la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie sur les persécutions auxquelles les habitants

Musulmans de la province sont exposés, surtout dans les districts de Pravadi et de Silistrie.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté le Sultan à Londres vient de communiquer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique une dépêche de son Excellence Savas Pasha qui constate que malgré les remontrances qui ont été adressées par les Puissances Européennes au Gouvernement Princier sur l'état intolérable dans lequel se trouvent les Musulmans dans les districts susmentionnés, aucune amélioration ne s'est produite dans leur sort; dans le district de Pravadi trois villages ont été saccagés et dans celui de Silistrie deux individus ayant été soumis à la torture du feu par deux fonctionnaires en ont succombé.

Je suis chargé de représenter à votre Excellence quelle impression sera produite en Europe par la publication de faits pareils et d'exprimer de la part de mon Gouvernement, qui est persuadé que les autorités supérieures désirent mettre fin à ce mal, l'espoir que des mesures énergiques seront immédiatement prises pour atteindre ce but.

Agréez, &c.

No. 7.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 29. Confidential.)

Sophia, February 16, 1880.

My Lord,

M. COUMANY, the new Russian Agent and Consul-General, arrived here on the 11th instant, a few days after the departure of M. Davidoff. It is stated that M. Coumany's appointment is only temporary, and the fact of such haste being shown by the Russian Government to send a functionary of M. Coumany's rank at once, instead of leaving the post in the hands of a subordinate, has been made the subject of some comment here, and I have the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Bulgarski Glas" on this subject. The opinions of this journal, which is edited by a French restaurant keeper here, are not, perhaps of any great importance, but the articles are generally supposed to be inspired by the present Government.

I have reason, however, to believe that M. Coumany's stay will not be of such short duration. He told me himself that, at the time of the Prince's election, he was summoned by His Highness' father to give his son the benefit of his experience, gained by many years' residence in the East, and that much pressure was put on him, at that time, to induce him to accept the post of Agent here.

M. Coumany is certainly well qualified, by his knowledge of the country and the men likely to be of use in its government to aid the Prince with his counsels, and, as he is credited with moderate views, his presence here may prove beneficial in reducing to something like order the chaos which now reigns in all Departments of the Government. At present the Prince, surrounded as he is by a suite composed of Russians and Germans of the same age, or even younger than himself, has absolutely no one to whom he can apply when in difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas."

Sophia, le 14 *Fevrier.*

LES déplacements de personnages politiques en apprennent plus peut-être de nos jours au public, que tous les Livres Bleus ou Jaunes distribués aux Assemblées Nationales, que tous les documents diplomatiques enfin où le passage important, la partie saillante sont tellement recouverts de fleurs de rhétorique ou ensevelis sous des réticences, qu'il est très-difficile, pour ne pas dire impossible, de saisir la véritable pensée de l'auteur. Mais que le Comte Schouvaloff aille à Londres; que le Marquis de Salisbury parcoure l'Europe en se rendant à Constantinople; que le Prince de Bismarck se transporte à Vienne, aussitôt le monde attentif pronostique les événements, on conclut à une situation avec beaucoup plus de certitude que si des Circulaires savamment composées avaient été expédiées *urbi et orbi*.

Sur une échelle un peu moindre, quoique cependant d'une grande importance sur la scène du monde, nous avons vu récemment se croiser deux Diplomates éminents: l'un qui,

pour rétablir sa santé, prend un congé de huit semaines, M. Davidoff; et l'autre, M. de Coumany, qui vient le remplacer à Sophia pendant ce laps de temps. Ce soin à éviter toute solution de continuité dans la repésentation de la Russie en Bulgarie, mérite d'être relevé par les esprits attentifs.

Depuis le Traité de Berlin la Russie s'est renfermée dans un mutisme à peu près complet en ce qui touche les Principautés constituées à l'aide de son épée. La nomination au poste d'Agent Diplomatique de Sophia d'un homme politique du mérite de M. Davidoff, avait déjà donné la mesure de la sollicitude extrême qu'on éprouve, sur les bords de la Néva, pour la nouvelle création des armes Russes. Ce qui a permis surtout de juger, avec une certaine précision, le prix que la Russie attache au développement régulier et paisible des choses à Sophia, c'est que M. Davidoff, partant pour un congé relativement court, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas voulu laisser son poste un seul instant entre les mains d'un fonctionnaire subalterne. Il n'a pas cru devoir faire moins que d'envoyer tenir l'intérimat par une haute capacité comme M. de Coumany.

M. de Coumany ne restera parmi nous que le temps strictement nécessaire pour se faire regretter. S'il est nouveau venu dans le pays, la sagacité dont il a fourni tant de preuves dans les divers postes qu'il a occupés, Constantinople, Athènes, Paris, lui donnerait bien vite la clé de tout ce qui nous concerne. Sachons-le bien, toutefois, nos besoins, nos aspirations et nos erreurs possibles sont depuis longtemps chose familière pour M. de Coumany.

Nous nous sommes laissé dire que M. de Coumany était un Diplomate doublé d'un lettré du goût le plus fin. A notre avis, si un écrivain peut se passer d'être Diplomate, cette dernière qualité reçoit beaucoup d'éclat des formes littéraires. Nous pourrions en citer de nombreux et brillants exemples. Pour ne pas sortir de notre sujet, nous nous bornerons à rappeler que la Chancellerie Impériale Russe est célèbre pour l'art irréprochable qui préside à la rédaction de ses documents.

Cette tradition de la diplomatie Russe est soutenue, nous dit-on, avec beaucoup de talent par M. Davidoff. Sa rare expérience des hommes et des choses est due, d'abord à des dons naturels, ensuite aux vingt-six années de séjour qu'il a faites à l'étranger dans les postes de confiance où l'avait placé le Gouvernement Russe. A Londres, à Washington, à Vienne, à Rome, partout enfin, il a rendu les services les plus éminents. En dernier lieu, il avait été envoyé comme Représentant de la Russie près de la Constituante à Tirnova. C'est de là qu'il est venu occuper la place d'Agent Diplomatique auprès du Prince Alexandre. M. Davidoff est encore jeune. L'éclat des fonctions occupées lui assure un avenir des plus brillants dans la carrière de la diplomatie.

Nous pouvons nous féliciter de posséder au milieu de nous, dès les premiers temps de notre résurrection, des sommités diplomatiques. Mais nous devons surtout puiser dans ce fait de sérieux enseignements. En nous réjouissant de voir la Russie envoyer parmi nous les plus éclairés d'entre ses fils, nous ne devons pas nous dissimuler que ce soin indique, outre sa profonde sympathie pour nous, une situation particulière et, disons le mot, des inquiétudes peut-être justifiées. La Russie nous a donné et nous donne encore tant de preuves de sa bienveillance, qu'il ne serait peut-être pas séant de trop scruter ses intentions à notre égard. Bornons-nous donc à reconnaître qu'elle veille de près à ce que son œuvre ne périclite pas, et qu'elle ne serait pas d'humeur à la laisser aller à la dérive entre des mains aveugles et inexpérimentées.

Quant à nous, plus les droits qui nous ont été accordés sont considérables, plus nous devons nous efforcer d'élever nos devoirs en conséquence. Attachons-nous surtout à dissiper tous les doutes, à ne donner prise à aucune critique. Quelle douleur et quelle honte pour nous si Sa Majesté le Czar en arrivait à cette conclusion, que des flots d'un sang précieux ont coulé en pure perte.

Que dirait l'Europe, que nous avons si longtemps et si justement troublée par nos revendications, si nous nous enfoncions dans un étroit et abject Bysantinisme, et que lui répondrions-nous si, en face de nos discordes, elle nous demandait ce que nous avons fait du noble et riche pays qu'elle nous a confié?

Et notre Prince, qu'un brillant avenir attendait, soit en Allemagne, soit en Russie, qui nous a consacré, sans condition, son énergie, son intelligence, son sang, sa vie, quelle condamnation sans appel pour nous, si jamais il venait à déplorer le jour où il signa son acceptation au Trône de Bulgarie!

Nous sommes à une époque capitale de notre histoire. Chacun se demande en Europe, déjà avec plus de scepticisme que de curiosité bienveillante, si nous sommes véritablement dignes de ce "self-government," qui est la force des peuples intelligents. Nous n'avons à notre actif que notre indomptable patriotisme et le désir ardent de prendre rang au milieu des peuples de l'Europe civilisée. C'est peu, ce n'est pas assez. Nous prendrons bientôt notre avenir corps à corps. La tâche est redoubtable et demande, pour être

menée à bonne fin, une abnégation sans bornes, une lutte de tous les instants, une vigilance infatigable: que si nous ne sommes pas à la hauteur de cette tâche, nous retomberons dans un état pire que le précédent; car cette fois, nos amis eux-mêmes désespéreront de nous.

"Et nunc erudimini!"

No. 8.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February 16, 1880.*

THE result of the elections for the National Assembly of Bulgaria is now known.

As I predicted in my despatch No. 2 of the 7th ultimo, the opposition is in possession of a large majority, but it appears that from fifty to sixty new members of a rather superior class have been elected who are not yet compromised to any particular party.

The elections passed off everywhere quietly, but the fact that in more than one place the voting papers were found to contain the names of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff and of Prince Alexander, proves that the nature of a National Assembly is not yet very clearly understood by some of the Bulgarian electors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 9.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 92. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 22, 1880.*

IN the course of a confidential conversation M. de Kallay, who, as your Lordship is aware, may be regarded as the principal author of the Organic Statute of Eastern Roumelia, has expressed to me his bitter disappointment at the way it has been working, and his despair of seeing an improvement as long as Aleko Pasha remains Governor-General.

M. Kallay was aware that from the first I had considered the Commission to be committing a fatal error when they departed from the principle proclaimed in the Treaty of Berlin, by which the Porte was to be maintained in its military and political authority within the province, but from the manner in which he now speaks it is evident that he has himself become painfully alive to the fact.

As I did not, as your Lordship may believe, think it desirable to dwell upon what had been my own views of the course the Commission should have followed in framing the Statute, M. Kallay's voluntary admission that all his calculations had been upset by the appointment of an incapable Governor-General may merit being reported to your Lordship but it is strange that an undoubtedly able man should have advocated a system entirely dependent upon the character of a Governor, who had to be selected, not on account of any special qualifications or fitness for the post, but because it was necessary to secure the unanimous consent of the Powers, which there was not much chance of obtaining for any man of proved efficiency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 10.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 28, 1880.*

IN the course of a conversation which I had with the Emperor yesterday I alluded to the question of Arab-Tabia, and asked how he thought that it would be disposed of.

His Majesty replied that, according to the accounts just received from St. Petersburgh,

he had reason to believe the Russian Government to have made up their minds to "tolerate" its being included within the Roumanian frontier if it is so decided by the other Powers, but they would not themselves be direct parties to, or sign, any act establishing such an arrangement, as the Emperor Alexander had promised the Prince of Bulgaria that the position should not be separated from the Principality.

Upon my remarking that the Czar was not justified in giving a promise upon a matter on which all the Powers had an equal right to speak, His Majesty answered quickly that of course he was not, but that unfortunately it was not the first time that such a thing had occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 11.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 1, 1880, 11·25 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs writes that French Government give their adhesion to the proposals respecting Greek frontier, as they are recited in your despatch No. 190.

No. 12.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1880.*

FOLLOWING received from Trotter, dated to-day:—

"Seven more rafts plundered by Kurds near Hassan Keyf. Serious disturbances in Midyad district; one company infantry dispatched hence to-day. At Djarbekir about 500 soldiers remain. Abedin Pasha, named Governor of Salonica, replaced by Hakki Pasha of Samsoon. Baker Pasha returns from Djezireh to Kharpout and Sivas."

No. 13.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 27th ultimo, by inadvertence the "west" instead of the "east" side of the Lake of Scutari was described as impracticable for an exchange.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 14.

Memorandum by Sir J. Pauncefote respecting the Greek Frontier.

MUSURUS PASHA is anxious to receive some communication as to the position of the negotiations with France on this question. He deprecated the plan of a "Commission" as being premature, and though not instructed to make any official protest on the subject, I gather from his remarks that the Porte will strongly object "to the assembling of a Commission in their territory for the purpose of parcelling it out without their consent." He said the Sultan could not permit such a proceeding without arousing public indignation in Turkey. That the mediation contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin was a mediation to be carried on "selon les règles" by Plenipotentiaries, and should be followed and not preceded by a Commission of Delimitation as soon as a basis of demarcation had been arrived at.

He will call again the day after to-morrow, in the hope of hearing some particulars as to the final proposal of Her Majesty's Government. He repeated that he was not instructed to make any representations on the subject, and explained that though Her

Majesty's Government cannot now perhaps withdraw their proposal for a Commission, he hoped the proposal would be so presented as to bear as much as possible the character of a mediation, so as to *ménager* the susceptibilities of the Sultan in a matter affecting so gravely the interests of the Porte and the national honour.

J. P.

March 2, 1880.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 1.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 2, 1880.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 16, Political, of the 6th ultimo, forwarding a copy of your despatch of the 6th ultimo, with its inclosures, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

In reply, I have to state to you that I approve the notes you have addressed to the Vali of Salonica, informing him of your inability to assent to the application to British subjects of the jurisdiction of Turkish Military Courts, which was notified to the Consular Body at that place by a Circular dated the 31st January last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 24.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 2, 1880.

I HAVE to express to you my approval of the note you have addressed to M. Natchovitch relative to the legalization of Mussulman title-deeds, a copy of which accompanied your despatch No. 24 of the 8th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 17.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord,

Salonica, February 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translated copy of a leading article of the "Hermes," a Greek newspaper published at Salonica, confuting statements recently made in "La Turquie," and other newspapers of Constantinople, affecting the efficiency and working of the local Commission on the draft of the Organic Statute of the Turkish provinces.

I also beg leave to inclose copy of a Report from Mr. Assistant Alvarez on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Extract from the "Hermes" Newspaper.

THE REFORM COMMISSION.—"La Turquie," a newspaper published in Constantinople, contained in its number of the 31st January (N. S.) the following article:—

"The Commission formed in Salonica for the examination and study of the plan of reforms which the Imperial Government has the intention of introducing into the Ottoman provinces of European Turkey has temporarily suspended its labours according to a letter from Salonica on account of the withdrawal of the Greek Representatives of Salonica

and Seres. The reasons for which these two Representatives have thought it their duty to retire from the Commission are unknown."

If the correspondent of "La Turquie" dwelt in China he would, perhaps, be pardonable for his gross ignorance of matters known to the simplest in Salonica. And even if we suppose him hidden in a cave, he would have heard that the Salonica Commission on the plan of reforms has not suspended its labours in the slightest, but, having already happily finished the work set it, has proceeded to a second revision; and if the correspondent had limited himself to this a formal negation would be sufficient. But since he goes so far as to say that the suspension of the Commission's labours was owing to the retirement of one of the Representatives of Salonica and of the Seres Representative, we have thought it necessary to give some explanations, or rather simply to narrate with regard to these two persons what happened, that strangers to Salonica may appreciate the information of "La Turquie's" correspondent.

According to the edict of the Reform Commission it could not exceed the number twenty; and when after its full organization it was thought necessary that a Representative of Drama should be added, it is seen that according to this edict the number of the members of the Commission could be nineteen or eighteen, but not twenty-one. On this account it was necessary that one of the already-elected members of the Commission should retire, and he happened to be from Salonica. But as regards the Representative of Seres, he resigned of his own accord, and the reasons of his resignation lie with him and no one else.

The Christian members of the Commission, as soon as it was organized, decided by common consent to assemble privately chiefly at the Archbishop's Palace before the day of assembly in the Government House, which occurs regularly thrice a week, and, assisted by two Greeks who knew Turkish, used to study the Turkish copy debated, and drew up their propositions, and thus prepared beforehand came to the Sessions. But the Representative of Seres, the only exception, abstained from attending these private preliminary conferences of the Christian members, and on this account, after some sittings, he thought proper to resign, not wishing, it appears, to play an empty *rôle*. And when the people of Seres were called upon to replace him, they stated they could not send any Representative other than this one, and the resigner was again called upon to resume his duties. But he thought he would have been benefited by the Greek translation of the scheme, copies of which have been distributed to the Christian members, yet, as he had not followed the debates of the Commission, and on that account was a stranger to the questions at issue, he declared in a letter that he could not take up his office even though it was offered him a second time. The withdrawal of the Representative of Seres, however great an idea the correspondent of "La Turquie" may have of his talents, as it appears he has, has been far from suspending the work of the Commission. On the contrary, not only has this proceeded uninterruptedly, but we must confess has been accomplished in the greatest calm and harmony; and this harmony has not been disturbed even in the most delicate questions in which the Christian members, under the leadership of the Metropolitan, have frankly drawn up and supported many important proposals concerning the private interests of the Christian community. And we write this with the more pleasure, as we look upon the concord and brotherly co-operation prevailing in the Commission as the first fruits of the connection that must exist between us and our Ottoman fellow-citizens who have begun to understand this necessity imposed on them by events. And we pray that this idea well cultivated may completely ripen in the minds of our Ottoman and Greek fellow-citizens that our common and many-formed enemy may be repulsed. Hoping to return to this question, we have only touched on it lightly to-day, starting from what was written by the correspondent of "La Turquie" who so lightly distorted the truth.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Mr. Alvarez to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, February 20, 1880.

Sir,

IN conformity with your instructions I waited upon his Eminence the Archbishop of Salonica this morning, and in the course of conversation desired to know his Eminence's opinion on the progress and efficiency of the work of the Reform Commission.

His Eminence in reply stated that, though he, on behalf of the Christian members, had requested the delay of the sitting that was to have been held to-day, for the purpose

of studying the Turkish original of the latter Articles of the Provincial Reform Law, in all probability the labours of the Commission would be brought to a close in the course of next week.

As regards the efficiency of the work of the Commission, his Eminence declares that all the members of the Commission, without distinction of religion and nationality, by the patriotic ardour and undisturbed harmony displayed in the accomplishment of their task, showed that they had at heart the interests of their country.

On my asking the Archbishop what was the state of feeling that existed between Turks and Greeks at present, his Eminence replied that, owing to the efforts made by persons belonging to both nationalities, there was a better feeling of friendship and fraternity springing up and gradually increasing, together with a desire to forget the past in view of the danger which menaces them from their common enemy, Panslavism.

In conclusion, I may add that his Eminence gave me to understand that there was no objection on his part to his sentiments being reported to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. W. ALVAREZ.

No. 18.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 16. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 23, 1880.

IN my last despatch of the 15th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the latest sittings of the General Assembly had been occupied in drawing up a law for preventing damage being done to growing crops by the trespassing of cattle. The greatest part of the week just elapsed was spent by the Deputies in voting taxes for the payment of the employés of the different municipalities and parishes (communes) into which the island has been divided, ½ per cent. on the tithes, ½*d.* per head on sheep, 2 per cent. on timber, and various sums levied on trade licences, being the principal sources of supply voted for this purpose. A special impost of 1 per cent. on the rent of all stores, and houses not inhabited by their owners, was also voted for the keeping up of schools.

It was not till Saturday, the 21st instant, that the Deputies approached the subject of the Budget of the ensuing financial year beginning on the 13th March. The receipts have been estimated to amount to 11,600,000 piastres (about 90,000*l.*).

It was then proposed and seconded by two Christian Deputies, that the special privilege accorded to the Sphakians after the drawing up of the arrangement between the Porte and the insurgents in 1878 should be withdrawn. The privilege in question was fully explained to your Lordship in my despatches No. 112 of the 28th October, 1878, and No. 2 of the 6th January, 1879, and consisted in the right given to the Sphakians of levying their own taxes, without the intervention of the tithe-farmers, the sum of 49,000 piastres having been agreed upon as their annual contribution during the next five years. It was the renewal of an ancient privilege which had been abolished on the suppression of the insurrection of 1866-8. It seemed important at the time of its renewal, little more than a year ago, to grant this satisfaction to the Sphakians who were capable of disturbing the recently-cemented peace, but the jealousy which the pretensions of the Sphakians have always excited among the rest of the islanders was ill-concealed, and has now again declared itself. A vote suppressing the obnoxious privilege was carried by a large majority of both Christians and Mussulmans, the latter not concealing their pleasure at seeing dissension springing up among the ranks of their political opponents. The four Sphakian Deputies retired from the Assembly in great wrath, being indignant at the breach of an agreement which was concluded for five years. I am not without hopes that through the influence of the Vali a compromise may yet be brought about, as the compact was made between his Excellency and a deputation of Sphakians, who consider him responsible for its due fulfilment.

At yesterday's sitting of the Assembly an attempt was made by the Christian Deputies to vote the suppression of the functionaries known as Mouavins, persons attached to every Mutessarif and Kaimakam, for whom they act as Deputies in case of their absence, but who have no important duties to perform. It was necessary to obtain a vote of two-thirds of the Assembly to carry the measure, and though a few Mussulmans joined their voices to those of the Christians, the required number was not obtained by reason of the absence of the Sphakians. A subsequent proposal to reduce the salaries of

the Mouavins attached to Mutessarifs from 138*l.* to 46*l.* a-year, and of those attached to Kaïmakams from 69*l.* to 28*l.* a-year, was carried, since by the rules of the Assembly a bare majority of one suffices for the decision of questions which concern the fixing of salaries. The suppression of these superfluous functionaries will thus be brought about indirectly, as with such inadequate pay their resignation may be confidently looked for. It was further determined to reduce the salaries of the four Mutessarifs and of the thirteen Kaïmakams, the former from 460*l.* a-year to 270*l.*, and the latter from 138*l.* to 110*l.* a-year. Their present salaries do not appear to be excessive, and there is a fear lest a poorly paid Civil Department may produce unsatisfactory service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 19.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 1, 1880.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 190 of the 26th instant, specifying the exact language in which you propose to acquaint Her Majesty's Representatives abroad with the course which Her Majesty's Government are willing to pursue with a view to the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

I communicated your Lordship's despatch this morning to M. de Freycinet with a letter, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to you herewith.

I inclose also a copy of a note which I have received from M. de Freycinet this evening, and in which he says that the Government of the Republic gives its adhesion to the terms, as they appear in your Lordship's despatch, of the communication you propose to make to foreign Powers.

The note contains no allusion to that part of your Lordship's despatch which relates to the question whether or no Turkey shall be included among the Powers to take part in the intended Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Lord Lyons to M. de Freycinet.

M. le Président du Conseil, *Paris, March* 1, 1880.

I DO myself the honour to send herewith to your Excellency a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lord Salisbury on the Turco-Greek Frontier question.

Your Excellency will see that if this despatch meets with your concurrence Lord Salisbury is ready to telegraph to Her Majesty's Representatives abroad, in the terms recited therein, the arrangement to which Her Majesty's Government are willing to consent.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Paris, le 1er Mars,* 1880.

J'AI reçu la lettre en date de ce jour par laquelle vous voulez bien me communiquer une dépêche du Marquis de Salisbury indiquant les termes dans lesquels le Cabinet de Londres a l'intention de présenter aux Puissances sa proposition en vue de réunir une Commission de Délimitation chargée d'arrêter à la majorité des voix, et sur la base du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, le tracé le plus convenable pour servir de frontière entre la Turquie et la Grèce.

Je m'empresse de remercier votre Excellence de son obligeante communication et de lui faire savoir que le Gouvernement de la République donne son adhésion aux termes

du projet de proposition formulé dans la dépêche du Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de la Reine.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

No. 20.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 2, 1880.

IN compliance with the request contained in it, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a letter from M. Callimaki Catargi, in which is recited a despatch from the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, pressing for a settlement of the Arab-Tabia question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 20.

M. Callimaki Catargi to Lord Lyons.

Milord, *Agence Princière de Roumanie, Paris, le* 28 *Février,* 1880.

JE suis chargé de donner communication au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de la dépêche suivante qui m'a été adressée le 26 de ce mois par M. Basile Boerescu, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie.

"Le paragraphe final de l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin porte que la Principauté reçoit en outre le territoire situé au sud de la Dobrudja jusqu'à une ligne ayant son point de départ à l'est de Silistrie et aboutissant à la Mer Noire au sud de Mangalia. Le tracé de la frontière sera fixé sur les lieux par la Commission Européenne instituée pour la délimitation de la Bulgarie. Après la fixation locale du tracé dans les conditions prévues par l'Article XLVI, le Gouvernement Princier avait pris possession de tout le territoire que les Puissances lui avait assigné, y compris le point d'Arab-Tabia qui se trouvait à l'intérieur de la ligne fixée par la Commission Européenne de Délimitation. Toutefois, en vue d'éviter un conflit avec les armées Impériales Russes qui occupaient encore à cette époque la Bulgarie et croyant agir conformément aux intentions des Puissances, le Cabinet Princier ordonna l'évacuation de la région qui comprenait Arab-Tabia; il avait d'ailleurs la ferme persuasion que les Puissances décideraient sans délai l'entrée en possession effective, par la Roumanie, de tout ce territoire qu'elles avaient jugé légitime de lui attribuer. Des retards successifs se sont produits et ils ne sauraient se prolonger sans de graves inconvénients. Les intérêts douaniers de la Roumanie, le service de sûreté à la frontière sont forcément en souffrance. Les autorités compétentes manquent de données fixes pour établir les postes de gardes-frontières et des difficultés peuvent quotidiennement surgir entre les troupes Roumaines et les troupes Bulgares. D'autre part, il est urgent, au tripl point de vue de la conservation, de l'administration, et de l'exploitation de la nouvelle province Roumaine de procéder à la construction d'un pont qui doit relier les deux rives du Danube et dont le Congrès a unanimement proclamé la nécessité. La Roumanie désire sortir de cette situation précaire et préjudiciable à tous égards. Nous avons attendu que la Commission Technique désignée par la nouvelle disposition des Cabinets eût vérifié l'œuvre de la Commission de Délimitation. Mais comme la Roumanie s'est conformée à toutes les clauses du Traité de Berlin, même au prix de douloureux sacrifices, elle se croit autorisée à solliciter aujourd'hui de la bienveillance de l'Europe que l'exécution en ce qui la concerne et à son profit, de ce même Traité, devienne complète, et que la stipulation finale de l'Article XLVI, appliquée déjà théoriquement, reçoive enfin son application pratique. Le Gouvernement Princier prend donc la liberté de s'adresser aux Puissances signataires et les prie de mettre à exécution le résultat de leur propre décision, en le laissant prendre possession intégrale du territoire que la Commission Européenne lui a assigné, y compris le point d'Arab-Tabia.

"Veuillez exposer les diverses considérations à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et exprimer l'espoir que son Gouvernement voudra bien, par les mesures qu'il jugera convenables, hâter une solution dont vous ne manquerez pas de signaler le caractère d'urgence sous tous les rapports."

Je vous serai reconnaissant, Milord, de vouloir bien recommander à l'attention du Cabinet Anglais le contenue de cette dépêche, et de me faire part des intentions qu'il aura exprimées à cet égard pour que j'en informe mon Gouvernement.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) N. C. CATARGI.

No. 21.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 1, 1880.

AFFAIRS becoming serious on frontier of vilayet. Engagement has taken place four hours direct south of Haskeui. Militia was reinforced by 600 gymnasts assembled by officer in command of militia. Bulgarians lost one killed, five wounded. Turkish village burnt. Prefect says by retreating Turks. Probably by Bulgarian irregulars.

Engagement on a large scale expected. Militia reinforcements leave to-morrow with General.

No. 22.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 2, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 17 and 18, the man has been appointed to Bourgas after all.

The Director of Finance having to-day remonstrated, the Governor-General affected ignorance of what had taken place in the [? matter], when even the Secretary-General had acknowledged that he had official reports against the man, who is one of the principal Committeemen, and a notorious criminal.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 23.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3, 6 P.M.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 3, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

THE Bulgarian who petitioned against the levy of forced contributions has been imprisoned. Director of Finance having demanded his release, Governor-General denied permanent Committee had complained of Director meddling in that jurisdiction, but that he had not replied. Director represented the danger of such weakness towards the permanent Committee and secret societies, which were growing bold.

Governor-General having replied that Tribunals would have to decide respecting danger against those societies, the Director said that he had no faith in Tribunals to which criminals were appointed, and, in order to cover moral responsibility, would report dangerous state of affairs to the Prime Minister.

Governor-General replied that if he was the spy of Said Pasha he might do as he liked.

The Director, now determined to resign, rejoined that he was not a spy, but an honourable man surrounded by traitors and imbeciles.

I consider state of affairs in this province very serious. I am anxious to know whether any interference is contemplated.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3, 1 P.M.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 3, 1880, 11·10 A.M.

SULTAN has given his Iradé approving an exchange with Montenegro for Gussinjé, but offering a line which cannot be accepted by the Prince. Count Corti tells me that he will suggest to his Government to advise the Prince to make a counter-proposal as an ultimatum, giving the Porte a limited time to accept it.

He thinks, from what Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs says, that an arrangement may then be come to.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 25.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, March* 2, 1880, 3·25 P.M.

MIXED Commission has at length consented to receive Mussulman title-deeds without demanding certificates.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 26.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 3, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's telegram of the 27th—

Austrian Government are not at all likely to give way upon the question of construction of the railway from Nisch to Pirot, and they consider that all parties to the Treaty of Berlin must support their views, as the XXXVIIIth Article imposed upon Servia in regard to the new territory annexed to the Principality all the engagements that had been taken by the Sultan in reference to these lines.

They say that they will use every pressure to make the Bulgarian Government construct their portion of the line.

(Sent to Mr. Gould.)

No. 27.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.[*]

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880, 10·45 P.M.

THE French Government, as you are aware, proposed in December last that the Powers should recommend, for the acceptance of the Turkish and Greek Governments, a line of frontier which in Epirus would have passed close to the south of Janina: but would have included Metzovo and, apparently, a very large proportion of Thessaly in the territory to be ceded to Greece.

Her Majesty's Government felt that there were many objections to the course thus proposed. The line of frontier to be adopted and the extent of territory to be surrendered were open to serious objection; but Her Majesty's Government did not think that either this or any alternative line could be properly offered to the Porte as the definitive recommendation of the mediating Powers, unless it were based on more exact local data than were at present in their possession. They suggested, therefore, that the recommendations, whatever they might be, to be made by the Powers should be founded upon the Report of a Commission appointed to study the question on the spot.

The following are the terms in which they have agreed with the French Government to submit the proposal to the other Powers concerned:—

[*] Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, the Earl of Dufferin, Sir A. H. Layard, and Mr. Corbett.

"The Turkish and Greek Governments having failed apparently to come to the agreement contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government are willing, in concert with other Powers, to offer their mediation in order to facilitate negotiations, and for the purpose of determining the precise frontier which the Powers should recommend they propose the following arrangement: A Boundary Commission, composed of Commissioners nominated by the Signatory Powers, shall study and determine on the spot the line best suited to form a new frontier between the two countries. They shall take for the basis of their deliberations the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, and, without being bound by the general geographical indications given therein, they shall loyally act in the spirit and conform themselves to the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries at that sitting of the Congress. They shall decide by a majority of votes upon the precise frontier best fitted to carry that policy into effect, and Her Majesty's Government will join in recommending to the disputant Powers the frontier which the Commission shall in this manner determine."

No. 28.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880, 10·50 P.M.

WITH reference to my previous telegram respecting Greek frontier, you are instructed to recommend to the Porte to give the permission necessary for carrying this preliminary investigation into effect.

The recommendation of the Powers founded on this Report will afterwards be offered for the consideration of the Porte and Greece.

Acquiescence of the Porte in the appointment of the Commission will not bind it to anything more than an admission of the expediency of basing any recommendation of a new frontier upon full local knowledge.

No. 29.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880, 10·50 P.M.

MY telegram of to-day respecting Greek frontier.

You should inform Greek Government in the sense thereof.

No. 30.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880, 10·55 P.M.

WITH reference to my previous telegram of this day respecting Greek frontier, you are instructed to submit the proposal contained therein to the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 31.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.†

(No. 149.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880.

YOU are aware that the French Government in December last proposed that the Powers should recommend for the acceptance of the Turkish and Greek Governments a line of frontier which was only briefly described in the communication made to Her Majesty's Government, but of which the principal features were that, while passing close to the

* Similar telegrams were sent to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Dufferin, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and Mr. Corbett.

south of Janina in Epirus, it would have included Metzovo, and apparently a very large portion of Thessaly, in the territory to be ceded to Greece.

There seemed to Her Majesty's Government to be many objections to the course thus proposed. Both the line of frontier itself and the extent of territorial cession by Turkey which it would involve were, in their opinion, open to serious exception. But, putting aside all criticisms of detail, it did not appear to Her Majesty's Government that either the particular line suggested by the Government of France, or any alternative proposal, could properly be offered to the Porte as the definitive recommendation of the mediatory Powers, unless it were based on more exact data than are at present in their possession as to the nature and condition of the localities more immediately affected. They have therefore suggested that the recommendations to be made to the Powers, whatever these may be, should be founded upon the Report of an International Commission appointed to study the question upon the spot. To this suggestion the French Government have now agreed.

The following are the terms in which it is intended that the proposal shall be submitted to the other Powers concerned, and in which the French Government have already expressed their concurrence:—

"The Turkish and Greek Governments, having apparently failed to come to the direct agreement as to a rectification of frontier which is contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government are willing to join with the other Powers mentioned in that Article in offering their mediation for the purpose of facilitating the negotiations. In order to determine the precise frontier which the Powers should recommend, Her Majesty's Government propose that a Boundary Commission, composed of Commissioners nominated by the Powers Signatories of the Treaty, shall study and determine upon the spot the line which would be best fitted to form a new frontier between Turkey and Greece. The Commissioners would take for the basis of their deliberations the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, and without being bound by the general geographical indications given in that Protocol, they would be instructed loyally to act in the spirit and conform themselves to the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries in that sitting of the Congress. They would decide by a majority of votes upon the precise line of frontier best fitted to carry that policy into effect, and Her Majesty's Government will on their part be ready to join in recommending to the disputant Powers the conclusion at which the Commission shall in this manner arrive."*

† I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to recommend to the Porte to give the permission and facilities which will be necessary for carrying this preliminary investigation into effect. The recommendation of the Powers founded upon the Report of the Commission will afterwards be offered to the Governments of Turkey and Greece for their consideration. Consequently the acquiescence of the Porte in its appointment will not bind the Sultan or his advisers to anything more than an admission that any recommendation to be made by the Six Powers as to a rectification of frontier should be based upon the fullest available information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 98. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880.

I TRANSMIT herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, inclosing a memorandum by Mr. Mounsey, reporting steps that have been taken by the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires in consequence of information which had reached him as to French and Italian intrigues in the Balkan Peninsula working to create a state of things antagonistic to the interests of Austria-Hungary.‡

I have to request your Excellency to sound Baron Haymerle very cautiously as to the accuracy of the information contained in the memorandum. You will not fail to observe

* To Lord Dufferin, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, and Sir A. Paget:—"I have this day instructed you by telegraph to submit the above proposal to the ——— Government."
To Mr. Corbett:—"I have requested you by telegraph to inform the Greek Government of the above."

† This paragraph to Sir A. H. Layard only.

‡ Mr. Corbett, No. 42. See Part XLVI, No. 344, p. 212.

that it was communicated confidentially, and that the Austrian Government should not be made aware of the channel through which it has reached your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 33.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, February 17, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the urgent demand of the Director of Finance, the Governor-General held a Privy Council yesterday for the purpose of communicating to the Directors the letter which he had received from M. Schmidt, as reported in my despatch No. 60, Confidential, of the 15th instant, on the subject of the levying of forced contributions by the Secret Committee in the district of Hadji-Elles.

The letter in question having been read, M. Schmidt insisted that so long as he held the post of Director of Finance, he could not permit the Bulgarian population of the province to be subjected to any other taxation than that which was legally established, and that, moreover, the well-known existence of Secret Societies in Eastern Roumelia was a great political evil, which paralysed all efforts to introduce order, security, and prosperity. In fact, he argued, the proper administration of the affairs of the province had become impossible, owing to the action and influence of those Societies. He therefore called upon the Governor-General to suppress them.

Aleko Pasha adhered, without hesitation, to the views of M. Schmidt, and, having called upon the others to give their opinion, a discussion arose, in the course of which M. Schmidt was asked whether he could substantiate the statements made in the Report of his Agent.

A feeble attempt was also made by one or two Directors to deny the existence of any Secret Societies. It was alleged, particularly by M. Crestovitch, that the object of the contributions levied in the district of Hadji-Elles was purely charitable, and that sixty or seventy peasants had declared that they had subscribed to that object voluntarily.

M. Schmidt therefore requested the Governor-General to send for the Procureur-Général, who had been deputed by his Excellency to make an inquiry into the facts reported by the Agent of the Department of Finance.

When that official was introduced, M. Crestovitch marked still further his opposition to the course pursued by M. Schmidt, by putting questions to the Procureur-Général in a tone which was evidently intended to intimidate him.

The Procureur-Général, however, replied to the questions of M. Schmidt with perfect frankness, and established the fact that the contributions had been forcibly levied, notwithstanding the testimony which had been given in an opposite sense by a number of peasants, under the influence and threats of the local authorities.

He also repeated what he had previously stated to the Governor-General, namely, that the province was entirely in the hands of the Secret Committees, and that his Excellency's orders were only carried out when they happened to be in accordance with the views of that powerful and widespread organization.

The Procureur-Général having retired, M. Grueff, the Director of Public Instruction, made a powerful speech, in which he denounced the Secret Societies as the curse of the province, as constituting an *imperium in imperio* which could no longer be tolerated.

M. Schmidt then proceeded to establish the three points which he had set forth in his letter to Aleko Pasha, viz., (1) that money contributions had been forcibly levied in the district of Hadji Elles; (2) that the money had been levied for a mysterious purpose, through the agency of an organization unknown to the Government; and (3) that the local authorities were accomplices in the levying of such contributions.

He succeeded in causing the Privy Council to accept these three points as proved and admitted facts, notwithstanding the opposition of M. Crestovitch, and the efforts of the new Director of Justice (M. Kissiakoff), to deny that the officials of the Government were implicated in the illegal proceedings of the Committees to the extent alleged by M. Schmidt.

It was therefore resolved that a Proclamation should be immediately issued by the Governor-General, and kept posted up in every Bulgarian village for a period of four weeks, to the effect that no contributions were legally leviable except such as were

demanded by the properly constituted authorities, and that all persons attempting to levy any other moneys would be severely punished.

The Secretary-General, M. Crestovitch, was also instructed to order the Prefects to sequestrate immediately the funds held by the Secret Societies in the six departments of the province, and which are estimated to amount altogether to £ T. 30,000 or £ T. 36,000.

It was resolved that the sequestrated funds should be employed by the Government for the practical benefit of that section of the population, viz., the Bulgarian, from which the funds had been drawn. It is, I believe, intended to apply them to the establishment and support of schools and the rebuilding of churches. M. Schmidt will, however, endeavour to introduce a Regulation under which the proved claims of forced contributors will be satisfied by the Government out of the sequestrated funds. It is of obvious political importance, as well as a matter of pure justice, to attain this object, the Bulgarian peasantry being, I have reason to believe, anxious to be entirely emancipated from their revolutionary oppressors.

Some demur having been made, and particularly by M. Crestovitch, to the expediency of seizing the funds of the Committees, M. Schmidt significantly brought forward, among other arguments, that of the facility which the possession of large funds afforded for the bribing and corruption of Government officials by the Secret Committees.

Lastly, it having been established during the debate that the Secret Committees formed part and parcel of the Gymnastic Societies, and the Secretary-General having been forced to acknowledge that he had not yet communicated to the Prefects of Departments the two Ordinances of the Governor-General suppressing those Societies, he was instructed by the Governor-General in Council to transmit those Ordinances forthwith, and to cause the stores of ammunition still held by the Gymnastic Societies to be transferred at once to the keeping of the military authorities.

It was not decided at the Council as to whether the Prefect of Haskeui and the Sub-Prefect should be dismissed from the service of the province for having allowed forced contributions to be levied in the district under their superintendence, and M. Schmidt refrained from urging such a course as, in order to weaken the opposition of certain members of the Council, he thought it advisable to argue that the past should be forgotten, and allowance made for the circumstances under which the Secret Societies had been instituted and subsequently tolerated.

The views and arguments of M. Crestovitch having been thus rejected by all the other members of the Council, the Secretary-General fell back on a new line of defence.

Although he had protested throughout the discussion that he had been in complete ignorance of the facts now proved by M. Schmidt, he suddenly asserted, with much vehemence, that "the Central Government ought to be made strong."

He attributed, however, its past weakness to the absence of a military force on which reliance could be placed, and more particularly to the unsatisfactory condition of the gendarmerie, which was still unprovided with the proper number of arms, horses, and saddles.

General Strecker replied with little vigour, although he had frequently told me that his efforts to reorganize the militia were being thwarted by Russo-Bulgarian intrigues, and, to a great extent, by M. Crestovitch himself, who, notwithstanding the repeated representations of the General, had not yet established, by the introduction of the "Registres Matricules," a lawful basis for the recruitment and composition of the militia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 34.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 70.)

Philippopoli, February 20, 1880.

My Lord,

DR. YANCOLOFF, who accompanied M. Gueshoff last year on a mission to Europe, has been appointed Prefect to the Department of Bourgas, and Dr. Stamboloff, who, like Yancoloff, is a Deputy to the Provincial Assembly and a member of the Permanent Committee, has succeeded M. Ikonomoff as Prefect of Slivno.

M. Ikonomoff has taken service in the neighbouring Principality as Minister of the Interior.

I may add that Dr. Yancoloff is reputed to be the Vice-President of the Central

National Committee, and to be in receipt of a salary of 50 liras per month from that organization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 35.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 428 of the 31st December last, and No. 63 o the 15th instant, I beg to report that my Consular colleagues are individually of opinion that the only course now left open in the matter of the correspondence which has taken place with the Governor-General on the subject of the institution of Mixed Tribunals in this province, is to refer the settlement of the question to their respective Ambassadors at Constantinople.

I have consequently this day transmitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador a copy of the communication which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch above-mentioned, and in which the Secretary-General offers to concede (after obtaining the authority of the Porte) "as a favour or temporary faculty liable from day to day to be withdrawn," that which the Consular Representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, Greece, and Italy have demanded as a right derived from usages based on the Capitulations, and consecrated by the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 36.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, an article which was published in the "Maritza" of yesterday, commenting upon those Articles of the Organic Statute which regulate the relations between the Governor-General and the members of the Privy Council, as well as upon Article 113, which defines the responsibility of the Prefects, and their relations towards the Prefectoral Council.

The "Maritza" points out that, under Articles 57, 58, and 98, the Governor-General might, at a given moment, exercise absolute authority over the province; while Article 113, by rendering the Prefect alone responsible for any decision at which he may arrive with the aid of his irresponsible Council, might give rise to a host of abuses and malversations which would entirely fall upon the shoulders of the Prefect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Extract from the "Maritza" of February $\frac{8}{20}$, 1880.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Février.*

NOUS avons déjà parlé des difficultés que rencontre notre organisation administrative dans ses débuts; il ne faut pas en rechercher les causes réelles ailleurs qu'à la tête du pouvoir qui, lui-même, ne peut faire moins que de conformer sa conduite à l'esprit du Statut Organique, ce dont nous aurons à nous occuper aujourd'hui.

En effet, des rapports délicats existant entre le Gouverneur-Général et les six Administrateurs-Généraux dépend en grande partie la bonne direction à donner à tout le service administratif.

Voici ce qu'on lit dans le Statut Organique, Chapitre IV:—

"Article 57. Les six Administrateurs-Généraux forment le Conseil Privé du Gouverneur-Général.

"Ce Conseil se réunit sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général; à défaut du Gouverneur-Général, il est présidé par le Secrétaire-Général ou, à défaut de celui-ci, par le plus ancien de ses autres membres. En cas d'ancienneté égale de deux membres, la présidence appartient au plus âgé.

"Le Conseil ne peut prendre aucune délibération si les membres présents ne sont au nombre de trois au moins.

"Lorsqu'il est appelé à délibérer sur une mesure pour laquelle son avis conforme est exigé par une loi, la délibération a lieu sans la participation du Gouverneur-Général, et la présence de cinq membres au moins est nécessaire.

"Art. 58. Le Conseil Privé donne son avis sur toute mesure, sur toute affaire, et sur toute question d'intérêt publique pour laquelle il est consulté par le Gouverneur-Général, soit que ce dignitaire, en le consultant, obéisse à une disposition du Statut Organique ou d'une loi, soit qu'il juge spontanément à propos de la faire.

"Le Gouverneur-Général n'est jamais lié par l'avis du Conseil Privé; il est toujours responsable des décisions qu'il prend."

Les attributions du Conseil Privé sont donc celles qui règlent toute l'administration en général; il est tenu à donner son avis au Gouverneur-Général sur toutes affaires, sur toute question d'intérêt public; mais le Gouverneur-Général peut à volonté se passer de ses conseils. Dans ces sortes de rapports de Conseil Privé avec le Gouverneur-Général n'y aurait-il pas lieu de craindre, malgré la responsabilité assumée par le Gouverneur, qu'il pourrait, en certains moments, exercer son pouvoir en maître absolu sur la province? En d'autres termes, le Gouverneur-Général peut décider sur toute affaire et sur toute question d'intérêt public sans la coopération ni l'avis même de son Conseil Privé. C'est là, à notre faible avis, une grande faute que la Commission Internationale a commise, parmi les autres, dans le Statut Organique. Nous sommes sûrs que ce ne serait pas le cas avec Son Altesse le Prince Bogoridi; mais supposons, pour un instant, que le Gouverneur-Général cédant, dans des moments de défaillance, à de mauvaises influences, décide les mesures les plus funestes pour la province; le Conseil Privé tenu à l'écart ne pourrait ni les prévenir, ni en arrêter l'exécution. En pareille éventualité, la responsabilité du Gouverneur serait insuffisante à couvrir les graves conséquences que sa conduite aurait entraînées au préjudice du pays. Il y aurait matière à écrire longuement sur ce sujet; mais nous occupant de l'esprit du Statut Organique, nous y bornerons nos commentaires.

Dans le Chapitre V du Statut Organique, on remarque comme corrollaire de ce que nous venons d'exposer, concernant toujours les Administrateurs-Généraux, ce qui suit:—

"Article 98. Le Gouverneur-Général communique avec l'Assemblée soit par écrit soit par un ou plusieurs Administrateurs-Généraux désignés par lui, soit par des Commissaires à son choix pris dans le sein ou en dehors de l'Assemblée.

"A chaque séance, il doit être représenté au moins par un Administrateur-Général ou par un Commissaire.

"Les Administrateurs-Généraux ont d'ailleurs leur entrée dans l'Assemblée Provinciale et doivent être entendus quand ils le demandent.

"Les Administrateurs-Généraux et les Commissaires peuvent être interpellés sur les actes de l'Administration Provinciale."

Des fautes auraient été commises dans l'administration provinciale, à l'insu des Administrateurs-Généraux ou, malgré leur avis, rien que sur l'initiative du Gouverneur-Général et l'on veut prétendre sérieusement que ces Administrateurs soient obligés de répondre aux interpellations de l'Assemblée Provinciale pour les faits et gestes du Gouverneur-Général, auxquels ils avaient été condamnés de rester étrangers, en dehors de la responsabilité inhérente à leurs propres attributions?

N'aurait-il pas été plus pratique et plus utile pour la province, si le Statut Organique avait stipulé que le Gouverneur-Général ne pût rien décider sans l'avis de son Conseil Privé, qui aurait à partager avec lui la délicate responsabilité de ses actes dans le pays?

Le même inconvénient se répète, à un autre point de vue, dans l'administration départementale.

On lit dans le Chapitre VI du Statut Organique, Article 113:—

"Le Département est assisté d'un Conseil de Préfecture, composé d'un Secrétaire de Préfecture et deux Conseillers.

"Ces fonctionnaires sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

"Le Préfet prend l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture sur toutes les matières où l'avis de celui-ci est exigé par les lois et les règlements d'administration publique. Il peut, en outre, déférer à son examen toute affaire pour laquelle il juge à propos de le consulter. Pourtant, il est seul responsable de ses actes, même conformes à l'avis du Conseil de Préfecture."

Quiconque connaît la province ne pourrait ignorer les éléments qui constituent les Conseils de Préfectures. Le Préfet ne pourra jamais s'en passer et s'il est mal dirigé, il en serait seul responsable.

Mais il y a là, dans cette irresponsabilité du Conseil de Préfecture, indispensable au Préfet, la source d'une foule d'abus et de malversations peut-être retombant tous sur la tête de Préfet.

Les lois ne sont pas éternelles, elles peuvent être modifiées suivant les besoins du temps ou des fautes qu'on aura commises. Les lois sont l'œuvre de l'homme, imparfaits comme lui, et celles contenues dans le Statut Organique peuvent être d'autant plus soupçonnées d'imperfection qu'elles portent le cachet plus ou moins apparent des influences, diamétralement opposées, qui les ont élaborées. Et pourtant cette œuvre imparfaite ne pourra jamais être changée, même dans ses moindres détails, sans une entente préalable entre la Porte et les Grandes Puissances.

No. 37.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 73.)

Philippopoli, February 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article which has been reproduced in the "Philippoupolis" from the "Voice of Thrace," a Greek journal published at Adrianople.

The account which it gives of the expulsion from this province of fourteen Mussulman refugees, because they had refused to sell their lands for a few piastres per acre to the Bulgarians whom they found in possession of their property, is, I believe, perfectly correct.

Raouf Pasha sent the men in question back to Aleko Pasha with a request that his Excellency would inquire into the circumstances of their expulsion and cause justice to be done to them.

I regret, however, to state that two other gangs, one consisting of twenty-nine, the other of ten Mussulmans, have been subsequently sent here from Adrianople, under exactly similar circumstances.

I have the honour to inclose the copy of a petition which was presented to the Governor-General on the 17th instant by some of the men who have been thus harshly and illegally treated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February 12, 1880.

NOUS extrayons les passages suivants d'un article, qui a paru le $\frac{13}{31}$ Janvier dans la "Voix de la Thrace":—

La semaine dernière quatorze Musulmans, originaires de Sélimno, se présentèrent à l'autorité locale, nantis d'un rapport, qu'un Major Turc, en garnison sur les frontières, leur délivra avant leur départ pour Andrinople.

Dans ce Rapport le Major en question dit que ces hommes lui furent livrés par un officier supérieur de la milice Rouméliote, qui les avait accompagnés avec un détachement de soldats Bulgares, jusqu'aux frontières. Ces malheureux, ajoute le Rapport, sont dans un état déplorable, par suite des privations que les soldats leur ont fait endurer pendant le voyage.

L'autorité d'Andrinople leur demanda la cause de leur exil de la Roumélie Orientale. D'après leurs dépositions il résulte ce qui suit:—

Après le rétablissement de l'ordre dans la Roumélie Orientale, ces hommes, qui avaient dû quitter le sol Rouméliote pendant la guerre, revinrent dans leurs foyers, avec l'intention de s'y établir. Sur ces entrefaites, ils apprirent que par ordre supérieur les Bulgares, qui avaient cultivé leurs terres en leur absence, devaient leur donner la moitié de la récolte.

Ils leur demandèrent par conséquent la part qui leur revenait, mais les Bulgares refusèrent de faire droit à leur juste réclamation. Ils leur proposèrent au contraire de leur

vendre leurs terres. Pour échapper aux vexations de leurs tyrans, les Turcs ne demandèrent pas mieux que de se défaire de leurs propriétés et quitter le plus tôt leur pays natal, devenu pour eux un lieu de supplice; mais les acheteurs leur firent des offres si ridicules, que les Turcs ne voulurent pas y consentir. Alors les Bulgares, qui voulaient se débarrasser coûte que coûte de voisins si importuns, crurent bien plus expéditif de prendre à leur égard les mesures suivantes:—

Ils arrêtèrent ces quatorze Turcs, et les conduisirent comme des criminels à Sélimno, où ils furent écroués pendant six heures. Après quoi les autorités de Sélimno décidèrent de les expulser sans retard du sol Rouméliote, sans même leur donner le temps de prendre avec eux leurs familles, quelques provisions de bouche, et des vêtements pour se garantir contre le froid. Un détachement de miliciens reçut l'ordre de les accompagner jusqu'aux frontières.

Notre plume ne saurait décrire les maux inouïs que ces malheureux souffrirent pendant ce long voyage fait à pied. L'un d'eux fut tellement battu en route par les miliciens Bulgares, qu'il ne put survivre à ses blessures. Un autre se trouve actuellement dans l'hôpital de notre ville. On désespère de le sauver.

Son Excellence Réouf Pacha, ayant demandé des explications sur cette affaire au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, n'eut aucune réponse. Il s'adressa alors au Gouvernement Central, mais sans plus de résultat. Dans cette extrémité, il crut qu'il n'avait rien de mieux à faire que de renvoyer ces hommes à Philippopoli, après les avoir approvisionnés de tout le nécessaire. Il écrivit en même temps à Aleko Pacha une lettre très-pressante, dans laquelle il lui exprimait tout le regret que lui causait cette affaire, et lui demandait de quel droit le Gouverneur d'une province d'un même Etat exilait sans raison dans une autre de paisibles et honnêtes pères de famille, dont tout le crime consistait à ne pas vouloir se défaire de leurs biens, et quitter leur pays de naissance.

Voici encore un fait bien autrement tragique que le précédent:—

Une quinzaine de Bulgares, armés de pied en cap, entrèrent nuitamment dans le village Turc de Kara-Halloul, de l'arrondissement d'Eski-Zaghra, et se mirent à tirer des coups de fusil. Les habitants s'éveillèrent en sursaut et demandèrent ce qui se passait. Une femme Marise, ayant eu l'imprudence de sortir de chez elle pour se rendre dans une maison voisine, tomba sur le pavé mortellement blessée. Les Bulgares s'étaient déjà emparés de toutes les issues du village, ne permettant à personne d'y entrer ni d'en sortir. Ainsi maîtres de la place, ils commencèrent leurs prouesses. Six d'entre eux brisèrent la Porte de la maison d'un certain nommé Hadji Omer, qu'ils blessèrent grièvement de leurs baïonnettes à l'épaule droite et à la main gauche. Après quoi, ils échauffèrent jusqu'à l'incandescence un trépied qu'ils placèrent tout rouge sur la tête d'Omer, et ensuite sur celle de sa femme. Non-contents de cette cruauté, ils appliquèrent un fer ardent sur leur dos. Ni les pleurs des enfants, ni les cris déchirants des victimes ne pouvaient attendrir les cœurs inhumains de ces hommes dénaturés. Quand ils crurent qu'elles étaient suffisamment torturés, ils leur enlevèrent £ T. 6, leur seul bien, et les traînèrent, en les rouant de coups, hors du village, où ils leur dirent en guise de consolation: "Vous voyez bien, nous ne sommes pas plus de quinze; mais si vos coreligionnaires s'avisent à nous tuer, nous avons encore deux ou trois parents chacun, qui ne manqueront pas de nous venger et de vous exterminer tous, si vous ne vous hâtez pas de quitter ce village." Sur ces entrefaites, la femme d'Omer, ayant réussi à se sauver de leurs mains, rentra dans le village. Les Bulgares, voyant échapper leur proie, reconduisirent Omer chez lui, où ils recommencèrent sur lui de nouvelles tortures. Cependant les villagois revinrent peu à peu de leur première frayeur. Ils se réunirent tous pour se jeter sur leurs agresseurs; mais ceux-ci comprirent qu'ils ne pourraient pas tenir tête à tous les villageois; aussi, à un signal donné par leur chef, quittèrent-ils le village à la débandade. Omer raconte que les Bulgares avaient eu la précaution de se noircir la figure avec de la suie, de façon qu'ils étaient méconnaissables.

Ces malfaiteurs pillèrent encore d'autres maisons Turques, d'où ils emportèrent tous les objets portatifs. Plus tard, on reconnut quelques-uns des objets volés dans le village Bulgare d'Ouroucli.

Les habitants de Kara-Halloul s'adressèrent aux autorités locales, mais jusqu'aujourd'hui celles-ci ne prirent aucune mesure pour arrêter les coupables.

Nous apprîmes cette affaire au commencement de cette semaine; deux jours plus tard, une lettre nous mettait au courant du premier incident.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

NOUS sommes habitants d'Islimia (Slivno). Nous sommes revenus de Constantinople à cette ville où nous sommes restés pendant huit mois. Après cette expiration de temps, l'autorité d'Islimia nous a fait arrêter et nous a dit qu'il nous serait impossible de continuer à rester dans la Roumélie Orientale et que nous devrions aller ailleurs.

L'autorité a confié quinze de nous à la police et les a fait envoyer à Andrinople. Le Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople leur a délivré une ordonnance à l'adresse de l'autorité d'ici et les a renvoyés à Philippopoli. Après cela l'autorité d'Islimia a envoyé à Andrinople quinze autres personnes qui ont été de nouveau renvoyées ici par le Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople.

Depuis quelques jours nous nous trouvons dans les Hans de Philippopoli mourant de faim. Il n'y a personne à Islimia pour soigner nos familles. Nous vous prions, M. le Gouverneur-Général, selon les ordres de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople, de nous envoyer à Islimia, ou bien de nous fixer un autre endroit que nous pourrions habiter afin de ne pas souffrir d'avantage de cette misère.

(Signé) ISLIMIA KASSABASSENDAN.
ISMAÏL.
MEHMED OGLOU ALI.

No. 38.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 74.)

Philippopoli, February 22, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram, in clear, No. 15, of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis," giving an account of some of the outrages to which the Greeks have been subjected at the hands of the National Committee.

The case of the Greek, Theodore, is more fully stated in the inclosed petition, which has been addressed to me as well as to other Consular Representatives.

The two depositions made at this Consulate, of which I have the honour to transmit copies, fully corroborate the many statements made to me by Greeks as to the systematic and organized manner in which the "National Committee" is endeavouring to ruin their commerce, and even to drive them out of the province.

Your Lordship will find a clear indication of such a policy in the article from the "Maritza," of which I inclosed a translation in my despatch No. 20 of the 9th January last.

I transmitted that article to your Lordship only as an indication of the hostile feelings by which the Bulgarians were animated towards the Greeks, and I was not at that time disposed to believe that the threats of interrupting all intercourse between the two races would be carried into practical effect.

The recent occurrences having, however, been brought by M. Schmidt to the serious attention of the Governor-General, his Excellency has caused Mgr. Panaretos to be questioned as to his alleged complicity with the issue of an order and a pastoral letter threatening with the pain of excommunication all Bulgarians who should continue to maintain business relations with the Greeks.

His Eminence denied that he had issued such an order or letter himself, but acknowledged to the Secretary-General that one of his priests had taken upon himself to exhort the inhabitants of neighbouring villages in the sense alleged.

He promised to inflict punishment on that priest, but there are few who are not convinced that the priest is less guilty than the Metropolitan, whose character is such that, in his intense hatred to the Greek Church, to which he had previously belonged, and in his zealous promotion of the "Bulgarian National Cause," of which he is one of the most prominent supporters, he would certainly not hesitate to perpetrate any act, however criminal, provided he could do so without impunity.

Even the Exarch has frequently expressed to me, as well as to others, a very unfavourable opinion of the character of Mgr. Panaretos, against whose intrigues his Beatitude has found it very difficult to struggle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—I have just learnt that the Prefect of Philippopoli has likewise acknowledged the fact of the Bulgarians having been incited against the Greeks in a "document" which has been widely circulated.

T. M.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February 21, 1880.

NOUVEAUX EXPLOITS DES BULGARES.—Un Grec de Vodina, nommé Georges Karadja, se rendit, le 30 Janvier, à Péroustitsa, pour y vendre de la viande sèche. Il n'y avait pas encore étalé sa marchandise que les Bulgares l'entourèrent et lui signifièrent de vider les lieux. Georges n'en fit rien; au contraire, il put vendre sa viande, dont le produit ne fut pas inférieur à 700 piastres. Le soir arriva; notre marchand se mit alors à la recherche d'un gîte pour y passer la nuit. Mais, quelque offre qu'il fit aux habitants, non-seulement personne ne voulut lui donner l'hospitalité dans sa maison, mais encore il dut quitter sur le champ le village, pour échapper aux mauvais traitements des Bulgares.

Il était 9 heures du soir lorsque Georges sortit de Péroustitsa. Chemin faisant il fut arrêté par quelques villageois, placés en embuscade non loin du village, lesquels lui demandèrent l'argent dont il était nanti. Le marchand voulut raisonner, mais ses aggresseurs ne lui laissèrent pas le temps; ils tombèrent sur lui, et, après l'avoir battu dos et ventre, ils l'allégèrent aussi des 700 piastres, produit de sa vente.

Ainsi battu et volé, Georges se décida à se rendre à Démirdji-Keuy, village Bulgare, distant d'une heure de Péroustitsa, espérant qu'il y trouverait quelque asile pour la nuit. Mais un malheur n'arrive, dit-on, jamais seul. Des nouvelles épreuves attendaient le malheureux Georges à Démirdji-Keuy. Les soldats du corps de garde, qui se trouve à l'entrée de ce village, l'arrêtèrent sous le spécieux prétexte qu'un Grec, qui se permet d'entrer, nuitamment, dans un village Bulgare, ne saurait avoir de bonnes intentions. Il reçut une seconde raclée, non moins bien administrée que la première; après quoi il fut garrotté et lié à une colonne, par les soins des soldats, qui le laissèrent là jusqu'au matin. Le lendemain, un vieillard vint le détacher, et lui conseilla de partir immédiatement s'il tenait à conserver sa peau. Georges Karadja ne se le fit pas répéter deux fois; il retourna clopin-clopant à Vodina, où il est actuellement en train de soigner ses blessures.

Les fermiers Grecs ne sont pas moins exposés que les marchands à la haine des paysans Bulgares, qui ne se font le moindre scrupule de s'approprier leurs biens. Ils dévastent leurs champs; ils brûlent leurs fermes, et font des menaces aux bailleurs, aux propriétaires, et à leurs représentants.

Ainsi les habitants de Tsaratsovo menacèrent dernièrement de tuer un des plus distingués fermiers Grecs de notre ville; ils chassèrent ceux qui avaient pris à bail ses fermes de Tsaratsovo, et maltraitèrent son fils Théodore de la façon qui suit:—

Le 3 de ce mois, Théodore, accompagné de son ami Grégoire et du maître d'école Bulgare de Tsaratsovo, Nicolas Racheof, se rendit au village de Marzani, où il devait encaisser certaines sommes des villageois. Le soir, en rentrant à Tsaratsovo, ils rencontrèrent en chemin un gendarme nommé Costa. Ils le prirent avec eux et arrivèrent dans le village. Le gendarme alla demander l'hospitalité chez un de ses amis, tandis que les autres se rendirent à la ferme de Théodore. Après le souper, le maître d'école pria ses compagnons de venir avec lui jusqu'à l'école où il devait, dit-il, prendre un livre, et revenir ensuite à la ferme avec eux. Théodore et Grégoire consentirent à le suivre à l'école; mais en sortant de la ferme, ils furent attaqués à l'improviste par le Tchorbadji Kar-Jovanovitch, Koutous, et Tossi, qui leur lièrent les mains en criant, "Nous ne voulons pas de Grecs dans notre village." Dans la bagarre, le maître d'école prit la poudre d'escampette. Les prisonniers avaient beau demander la raison de leur condamnation, c'était peine perdue. Plus de quarante Bulgares, armés de gourdins et munis de cordes, criaient à tue-tête, "Ce sont des Grecs, battez-les, tuez-les, pendez-les." Ils allaient mettre leurs menaces en exécution, lorsque, pour leur bonne fortune, arriva le gendarme Costa, qui finit par convaincre les Tchorbadjis en question qu'ils feraient bien de relâcher les prisonniers qu'il accompagna lui-même jusqu'à la ferme.

Les paysans de Tsaratsovo ont eu l'idée de dresser un autel champêtre au beau milieu du susdit tchiflick, qu'ils ont eu soin de diviser préalablement en deux. Tous

les Dimanches le curé du village de Tsirpili y vient dire la messe, bénir des mariages, baptiser des enfants, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

M. Gumusguerdan to Mr. Michell.

M. le Consul-Général, *Philippopoli, le $\frac{8}{20}$ Février*, 1880.

JE Soussigné, Georges A. Gumusguerdan, ai l'honneur de vous exposer ce qui suit :—

Au village Tsaratsovo, distance d'une heure de Philippopoli, je possède une métairie et d'autres propriétés dépendant d'elle.

Le Dimanche, $\frac{3}{15}$ courant, mon fils Théodore se rendit au village Marzan en compagnie du maître d'école, Nicolas Rachkoff, et un certain Grégoire, tailleur.

En retournant le soir, ils rencontrèrent un gendarme, nommé Costa, qui était à cheval, et qui donna sa monture au maître d'école. Celui-ci s'en alla en avant, laissant là le gendarme et les deux autres, qui continuèrent lentement leur chemin jusqu'au village, où mon fils invita Grégoire et le maître d'école à passer la nuit chez-lui; quant au gendarme, il alla chez un paysan.

Après le souper, le maître d'école pria mon fils et Grégoire d'aller avec lui jusqu'à l'école pour y prendre un livre; ils l'y conduisirent, et quand il eut fini son affaire, comme ils s'apprêtaient à sortir, Kara-Giovanoglou, le cabaretier boiteux, et Tossy se ruèrent sur Théodore et sur Grégoire en criant: "Liez-les, liez ces Grecs impies." En disant cela, ils les jetèrent par terre, leur lièrent les mains, et commencèrent à les battre par des coups de poing; quand ces infortunés demandèrent la cause de leur supplice, les agresseurs leur imposent silence en leur disant: "Taisez-vous, nous vous tuerons tout à l'heure, nous ne voulons pas de Grecs dans notre village; c'est l'ordre formel du Comité, il faut ruiner les Grecs et détruire leurs propriétés. Sur ces entrefaites une cinquantaine de villageois criaient à tue-tête: "Tuez-les! Pendez-les! A mort!"

En effet, ils apportèrent des cordes et des bâtons, et ils s'apprêtaient à mettre leur projet en exécution, quand survint le gendarme Costa, qui réussit à les en dissuader.

Outre cela ils m'ont causé d'autres dommages aussi, en détruisant les murs de ma maison de campagne, en volant mes bestiaux, ravissant mes terres, ruinant mes constructions, &c.

J'ai donc recours à votre Excellence, et je supplie qu'elle fasse les démarches nécessaires auprès des autorités compétentes pour que justice soit faite.

Dans cette espoir, j'ai, &c.

(Signé) GUMUSGUERDAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Deposition of Ali Agha, Turkish Farmer at Markovo, Department of Philippopoli.

A WEEK ago, whilst at a coffee-house at Markovo with about twenty other Turks, a Bulgarian called Sotir told them he had just heard read at the Bulgarian church of that village a written order from Philippopoli to the effect that the Bulgarians should have no business dealings with the Greeks, and Sotir asked the Turks to follow the same course.

Ali Agha answered that the Koran did not prohibit Mussulmans from trading with Christians; he therefore saw no harm in it.

Money was being collected a week ago at Markovo from the Bulgarian villagers by a stranger who frequently comes to drill the Bulgarian peasantry at Markovo, and who visits all the villages in the neighbourhood for that purpose. He levied at that village a contribution of about 10 piastres a-head. The Bulgarians complain of the forced contributions to which they are subjected.

Philippopoli, February 16, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 38.

Deposition of a Bulgarian.

ON January the $\frac{17}{29}$th, 1880, Father Stoïko, second priest of the Bulgarian church in the parish of Karshiaka, went to the districts of Gueubsou and Coyoun-Tépé to read a pastoral letter addressed by Panaretos, the Bulgarian Metropolitan, to all Bulgarians, to the following effect:

"No Bulgarian must have relations or business transactions with Greeks, for the latter are sworn enemies of the Bulgars and oppose both the Bulgarian nation and its politics; in a few years they will take our commerce out of our hands. As long as there are Greeks in our country it will be impossible for us (Bulgars) to realize our wishes.

"Consequently any Bulgar who disobeys this order will be cursed both by myself, by God, and by Jesus Christ, according to the paragraph ——— of ——— (?)."

The villages which the above-named priest visited were:—

Tchirpeli, Sildjovo, Carr-Toprak, Dudiné, &c., in the Gueubsou district, and Aivadjik, Streltcha, Crastovo, &c., in the district of Coyoun-Tépé.

On the $\frac{18}{30}$th January the superior priest of the monastery of St. Kiriaki (Bulgarian), situated near Katounitza, started on a similar mission. He visited the districts of Caradja-Dagh and certain parts of the Rhodope. In the former district he visited Caragach, Ahlan, Belachtitza, Deïrmendéré, Marcovo, &c.; in the latter district: Yeni-Keui (Novo-Celo) Cherokaleka, &c.

Philippopoli, February 17, 1880.

No. 39.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 22, 1880.

I HAVE learnt on good authority that the Mussulmans of the disaffected district of Kirdjali, in this province, recently sent a deputation to the Prefect of Hasskeui with a written message to the effect that, although they were citizens of Eastern Roumelia, yet, as the Treaty of Berlin has not been fully carried out by the Turkish occupation of the Balkans, they would "retain their present position towards the Government at Philippopoli."

As reported in my despatch No. 341 of the 7th November last, the position which they have established is practically that of a Republic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 40.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 21, 1880.

GENERAL STRECKER has been compelled to place under arrest several officers of the local militia, both Russian and Bulgarian, owing to the spirit of insubordination which prevails amongst them.

The officers of the militia stationed at Hasskeui are almost in open rebellion. They have long been dissatisfied with their Commander, who is a Polish officer of excellent soldierly qualities, and who naturally endeavours to counteract the influence which the "National Committee" exercises over the young officers under his command.

The Chief of the Staff has been sent to Hasskeui to assist in establishing discipline and order, and two or three of the officers at Hasskeui have been placed under close arrest.

General Strecker attributes this spirit of insubordination to the instigation of the "National Committee," of which there is clear evidence in the articles that have been published in the "Narodni Glass," the principal organ of the "National party."

There is even reason to suspect that the ultimate object of the insubordination which is being manifested is to procure the replacement of General Strecker by Colonel

Kessiakoff, the persistant Russian candidate, for the command of the local militia and gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 41.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 77. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 22, 1880.

THE Russian Acting Consul-General having intimated privately that a *Te Deum* would be celebrated in the Bulgarian church on the occasion of the preservation of the life of the Emperor of Russia, the Consular Body attended the ceremony in uniform, and I had subsequently the pleasure of offering to M. Isvolski, at the Russian Consulate-General, the heartfelt congratulations of the Consular Corps, of which I am temporarily he Doyen.

In these proceedings there was a marked departure from the manifestations that were made on the occasion of the previous attempt on the life of the Emperor.

The ceremony at the Bulgarian church commenced about half-an-hour later than the time appointed, and was conducted by a Bishop instead of by the Metropolitan who replaces the Exarch. The Acting Russian Consul-General entered the church when the service was almost concluded, and the Governor-General failed altogether to make an appearance.

The reason of all this has just transpired.

The Governor-General having heard only by accident that a *Te Deum* was to be celebrated, sent to ask the Metropolitan, M. Panaretos, by whose orders such a ceremony was going to be performed.

His Eminence replied that it was at the request of M. Isvolski.

At a meeting of the Privy Council held immediately after the celebration of the *Te Deum*, Aleko Pasha expressed his indignation at not having been consulted, by throwing a chair from one end of the Council Chamber to the other, and by exclaiming, "Am I or M. Isvolski Governor-General in this province?"

His wrath was so great that he rated his Directors in no measured terms for having assisted at a ceremony for which his sanction had not been obtained.

The Directors pleaded ignorance of the circumstance under which the ceremony had taken place, but agreed with the Governor-General that the Metropolitan should not in future be allowed to act independently in such matters, especially as he might at some other time be induced to lend his hand to a demonstration in dissonance with the political position of the province.

It is evident that the Metropolitan, having heard of the indignation of the Governor-General, endeavoured to atone for the mistake which he had make by abstaining from taking part in the ceremony on the ground of ill-health; while it is probable that M. Isvolski remained away until the last moment, in the hope that the Governor-General would yield to the accomplished fact and attend the *Te Deum*.

On the other hand, the Governor-General now excuses his non-attendance by blaming his Aide-de-camp, who, he alleges, assured him three several times that the ceremony would only take place on the morrow.

M. Isvolski, in his turn, has affirmed to the Governor-General that the Metropolitan had spontaneously given orders for the celebration of the *Te Deum*.

No political significance can, however, be ascribed to this incident. In reality it only marks the extraordinary vanity of the Governor-General, who has thus braved the displeasure of the Court by which he is supported, only because the *Te Deum* had been arranged without his knowledge and sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 42.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 78. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a despatch addressed on the 5th instant by Said Pasha to the Governor-General on the subject of the Budget and the law respecting the salaries of the provincial civil servants, which Aleko Pasha had forwarded to the Porte for confirmation.

The Prime Minister rejects both these legislative acts on grounds which are on the whole substantial.

His Highness points out that the Budget has not been accompanied by detailed estimates; that the funds belonging to Mussulman refugees have been improperly treated as revenue, and the manner in which they are to be employed for the benefit of the refugees not distinctly indicated; and that while large sums have been appropriated to the reconstruction of Bulgarian villages and to the indemnification of Bulgarians in occupation of Turkish houses, only £T. 5,000 have been provided for the purpose of "reinstalling the Mussulman population."

The latter statement (which may possibly be an error in translation from the Turkish) is incorrect, since the £T. 5,000 were voted by the Assembly for the purchase of cattle for the Mussulman refugees.

The Prime Minister further objects that the sum voted for seed (and which, his Highness has failed to remark, will benefit the Bulgarians as much, if not more than the Mussulmans) is not in proportion with the large amount to be appropriated for the "indemnification of Bulgarians who have taken possession of Mussulman houses and destroyed them," a proceeding "which is not compatible with justice."

An equally strong objection consists in the provision for expenditure under the head of "posts and telegraphs" since the latter are Imperial, not provincial, services; and their inclusion in the estimates of the Department of Public Works, &c., is considered to be an infringement of the rights of the Empire.

Said Pasha further proceeds to point out that it is "contrary to the principle of equality insured to the population by the Organic Statute" to appropriate out of the entire vote of £T. 15,190, for public instruction a sum of £T. 13,372 exclusively for the benefit of Bulgarian schools, without giving anything to other nationalities, and devoting only a sum of £T. 1,980 to certain schools at Philippopoli.

Lastly, his Highness points out that while the estimated expenditure for the gendarmerie is in conformity with the law, the vote of £T. 127,401 for the maintenance of 8,504 soldiers and subaltern officers is in excess of the legal limit.

The correctness of the observations made by the Prime Minister with respect to the vote for the "sanitary service" are alone open to refutation since the Provincial Assembly has not provided for a quarantine service, but merely for local medical inspection.

I may also point out that the objection which his Highness has made to the use of the word "Plovdiv" instead of "Philippopoli" is scarcely in keeping with the principal and more serious subject of the despatch, although the Porte is perfectly right in objecting to the capital of Eastern Roumelia being designated under a Bulgarian name.

The despatch in question is interesting, not only because it proves that the Porte is fully alive to the tendency which is manifested by the Budget and the law on salaries voted by the Assembly, but also because it shows the tone of the present correspondence between the Porte and Aleko Pasha.

In this respect it is satisfactory to observe that the Prime Minister requests the Governor-General to "conform himself to the stipulations of the Organic Statute, and to insure the rights of the populations of the province in conformity with the principles of equality," while keeping his Highness informed of the state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Said Pasha to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)
A son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Excellence,

APRES avoir examiné le Budget et la loi sur les traitements des fonctionnaires de la Roumélie Orientale, nous avons constaté que ce Budget n'est pas le Budget expliqué et détaillé qu'on aurait dû présenter conformément au Statut Organique à l'Assemblée Provinciale. C'est un Budget abrégé et non motivé; par conséquent nous n'avons pu savoir de quelle nature sont les revenus.

Après l'arrivée de votre Excellence au chef-lieu de la province, lors de la transmission de l'Administration Financière (23 Mai, 1295) au Gouvernement de la province, la Commission Européenne lui avait en même temps remis une somme de 4,995,080 piastres, dont 4,095,400 piastres étaient propriété de la province, et 4,400,968 piastres représentaient la valeur des immeubles, leurs rentes, et le montant des moitiés des récoltes des Mouhadjirs Musulmans.

Nous avons vu dans le Budget la somme complète qui est la propriété exclusive de la province tandis que celle appartenant aux Mouhadjirs non-seulement y a été inscrite de 3,000,000 piastres, mais encore au lieu d'être exclue du Budget, vu qu'elle n'était pas considérée comme la propriété de la province, y figurait comme revenu. En outre, la somme de 1,400,968 piastres détachée de la somme principale de 4,440,968 piastres revenant aux Mouhadjirs, étant restée complétement disponible, il est à croire qu'elle a été distribuée à leurs propriétaires, mais nous n'avons vu dans le Budget aucune explication ni détail disant à quoi cet argent a été dépensé.

A partir de l'époque précitée jusqu'à la fin du Février, c'est-à-dire pour neuf mois, sept jours, d'espace de temps, les revenus de la province ont été mentionnés dans le Budget approximativement, tandis qu'on pouvait les montrer d'après calcul authentique.

Dans le Budget, la somme allouée pour les dépenses de la Direction de l'Intérieur est de 8,100,000 piastres, dont 4,000,000 piastres sont affectés pour les réfugiés et le restant est montré comme dépenses de la Direction et les émoluments des fonctionnaires.

Pour la Direction de la Justice on a alloué la somme de 2,706,000 piastres.

La somme de 12,538,000 piastres allouée à la Direction des Finances est répartie ainsi: 1,700,000 piastres donnés à la population Bulgare des villages brûlés d'Eski-Zagra, Kalofer, Chipka, et Adjan; indemnité pour les semences 1,500,000 piastres; pour l'indemnité de la population Bulgare qui occupe les maisons Turques, 500,000 piastres, seulement pour la réinstallation de la population Musulmane; 3,000 piastres pour les dépenses extraordinaires.

Il y a une erreur de 4,000 piastres dans le total de la somme.

La somme de 1,500,000 piastres affectée aux semences, est, il est vrai, raisonnable, mais en présence de la somme colossale de 1,500,000 piastres affectée aux Bulgares qui se sont emparés des maisons des Musulmans et les ont démolies et qu,à présent on doit faire en sortir la somme de 500,000 piastres affectée aux malheureux Musulmans qui ont perdu leurs maisons et leurs immeubles, n'est pas conforme à la justice.

En outre, nous n'avons vu aucune indication concernant le montant à donner aux réfugiés Musulmans et à prendre de la somme de 4,000,000 piastres détachée à titre de secours aux réfugiés des dépenses de la Direction de l'Intérieur.

Parmi les dépenses de 3,575,000 piastres de la Direction des Travaux Publics, du Commerce, et de l'Agriculture, il y a une somme de 1,445,272 piastres, affectée exclusivement aux dépenses et émoluments des postes et télégraphes appartenant à l'Empire, avec la condition de la surveillance du Gouverneur-Général de la province, on ne peut admettre, d'après la loi, aucune espèce d'ingérence, et par conséquent on aurait dû tenir un compte séparé pour ces deux Directions. Il aurait fallu mentionner seulement l'excédant ou le déficit dans le Budget s'il y a lieu.

C'est donc léser les droits de l'Empire que de faire figurer des dépenses pour postes et télégraphes parmi celles des Travaux Publics, du Commerce, et de l'Agriculture, en supposant que ces deux Directions appartiennent à la province.

Les dépenses de la Direction de l'Instruction Publique, remontant, dans le Budget, à 1,519,000 piastres, on a alloué seulement 198,000 piastres pour les écoles de Philippopoli et quelques quartiers; tandis que sans rien donner aux autres nationalités et en dehors des dépenses et émoluments de la Direction on a affecté toute la somme de 1,337,200 piastres exclusivement aux écoles Bulgares.

Ce fait est contraire aux principes de l'égalité assurée à la population par le Statut Organique de la Province.

Quant à la somme de 24,000,000 piastres affectée pour la dépense de la milice et de la gendarmerie de la province, il n'y a rien a dire pour la somme de 6,925,875 piastres, allouée aux dépenses et émoluments des officiers et soldats de la gendarmerie dont le nombre est conforme à la loi, mais en déduisant ces dépenses de la somme en question, il reste 12,740,105 piastres pour les dépenses de 8,504 soldats et officiers subalternes de la milice. Ces dépenses dépassent les limites prescrites par la loi.

L'antique nom de la ville de Philippopoli est remplacé dans le Budget par celui de Ploydiv. Soit dans les Traités, soit dans le Statut Organique, on n'a employé d'autre nom que celui de Philippopoli; ce changement de nom a attiré l'attention du Gouvernement Impérial.

L'ingérence que le Gouvernement Provincial indique dans le Projet de Loi concernant les employés des postes et télégraphes étant contraire au Statut Organique ainsi que cela a été expliqué plus haut, les traitements de ces fonctionnaires devant être alloué d'après l'avis donné à majorité des voix par la Commission, on ne pourra fixer le traitement de ces fonctionnaires qu'après s'être entendu avec le Ministère des Postes et Télégraphes conformément au sus dit avis.

Pour les employés des services sanitaires et des chemins de fer, ils sont nommés par le Ministère de Santé et par la Compagnie d'Exploitation. Leurs traitements et leurs positions doivent être indiqués par ces deux Directions, et il n'y a pas lieu de les insérer dans le Budget.

Je prie votre Excellence de bien vouloir se conformer aux stipulations du Statut Organique et d'assurer les droits de la population de la province conformément aux principes d'égalité et de m'informer de l'état de choses.

(Signé) SAÏD.

Le 24 Janvier et 24 Seffer, 1295 *et* 1296.

No. 43.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 4.*)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note addressed by Sawas Pasha to this Embassy and to the other foreign Missions, informing them that the Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the execution of certain judicial sentences, known as the "Kitabet" had been transferred to the Tribunal upon which it rightly depends. This Circular was discussed at a meeting of the Diplomatic Body held the day before yesterday at Her Majesty's Embassy. Several of my colleagues, and especially the Chargé d'Affaires of Russia, who has had a very long experience of the mode of transacting business at the Porte, took serious objection to this measure.

It was consequently decided that it should be referred to the Commission of Dragomans now sitting for the examination of the new Codes of Law and Procedure, for a report upon the subject. It was further agreed that, in the meanwhile, we should acknowledge the receipt of the Circular, and point out to Sawas Pasha the inconvenience and discourtesy of putting into execution measures which may affect the rights and privileges of foreigners, or change the manner in which business has hitherto been transacted between foreign Missions and the Porte, and afterwards communicating them to the foreign Representatives. Such a course has been frequently pursued of late. Two instances may be specially mentioned—

The new License Law, which was suddenly promulgated, and the new Criminal and Commercial Codes, which were introduced into the Turkish Tribunals without previous communication with the foreign Missions, whose assent to them was subsequently required, and who have consequently been compelled to protest against these laws being put into force as regards foreigners until they have been fully examined and considered. My colleagues were unanimously of opinion that the Porte had designedly taken this course, in order, little by little, to evade the Capitulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 16 Février*, 1880.

LE Bureau exécutant les sentences du Tribunal Mixte, qui fonctionnait jusqu'à présent au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères sous le nom de "Kitabet," vient d'être transféré à proximité du Tribunal même. Cette mesure est destinée à faciliter l'exécution des sentences, et à mettre la distribution de la justice à l'abri de tout arbitraire administratif. Les décisions des Tribunaux se trouveront par le fait même de cette mesure en dehors de l'action des fonctionnaires administratifs. Partout les hauteurs et les hésitations qui en provenaient, et qui formaient journellement le sujet des plaintes des Missions étrangères, devront forcément disparaître.

Pour ce qui concerne l'exécution des sentences mixtes, MM. les Drogmans voudront bien s'adresser toujours à Calliadi Bey, qui fonctionnera avec ses Bureaux dans le nouveau local qui lui a été assigné.

De ce qui précède il ne faut point inférer que la section du contentieux du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a été transférée au Département de la Justice. Cette section a été conservée et mise sous les ordres directs de son Excellence le Sous-Secrétaire-d'Etat. Toutes les fois donc qu'une question de droit international Turque, ou toutes les fois que des communications devront être faites par mon Département, soit au Ministère de la Justice soit à d'autres Départements, pour des affaires contentieuses mixtes survenant tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces, on continuera à s'adresser comme par le passé à mon Département, et plus particulièrement au Sous-Secrétaire-d'Etat.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 67 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I am constantly and urgently representing to the Porte the necessity of arriving at a speedy settlement of the Gusinjé-Plava question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 45.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, forwarding a petition from fourteen Samarinotes, who state that they have been unjustly imprisoned at Janina. I have brought their case to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, February 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin, for the information of your Excellency, extract from Mr. Kypriotis' despatch dated the 29th ultimo, relating to the alleged unjust imprisonment of fourteen Samarinotes. I have also the honour to inclose translation of a petition addressed by the latter to Mr. Kypriotis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Extract.) *Janina, January* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a petition forwarded to me by fourteen Samarinotes detained in the prisons of Janina without sentence. In consequence of the above petition I called in a friendly way the attention of the Vali to the unjust detention of the above Samarinotes, but he replied that the Tribunals are independent, and on my remarking that, although independent, they are under his supervision, he avoided giving me a direct answer.

Inclosure 3 in No. 45.

Petition.

THE Undersigned, inhabitants of the village of Samarina, district of Janina, most respectfully take the liberty to bring to your notice the following:—

Seven of us, trusting to the amnesty, proclaimed through the humane intervention of the respectable British Government, in connection with the recent revolution, appeared of our own accord before the Turkish authorities, who, taking bail for us, allowed us to remain unmolested for some time, but about four months ago we were summoned, and on making our immediate appearance we were, for no reason whatever, thrown into the terrible dungeon of the prison of Janina, where we still find ourselves, and of the remaining seven, some without reason whatever, are detained for nearly four months. Now, whereas we are detained so long without sentence, whereas we find ourselves in the terrible dungeons without warmth, light, and bedding, not being allowed to see our relations. Whereas we repeatedly forwarded petitions to the authorities at Janina praying for our release, and have not even been brought before a Tribunal; and, lastly, whereas the seven of us have of our own accord presented ourselves to the Turkish authorities and have committed no crime, for these reasons we throw ourselves before you, the Representative of the Power that protects the Christians, and entreat you to take the necessary steps so that we might be relieved from the dreadful and unjust position we find ourselves in.

January 10, 1880. (14 signatures.)

No. 46.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney and Mr. Kypriotis reporting various acts of brigandage in the neighbourhood of Janina, as well as upon the general state of that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, February 14, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the perpetration within the month of January last of the three following acts of brigandage as communicated to me by Mr. Kypriotis:—

1. On the 9th at Skala, between Janina and Paramethea, eight brigands captured several muleteers, robbed them of all the money they possessed, and made off with seven mules.

2. On the 17th eighty brigands, under the leadership of the famous Leonidas and Nicol Zermas, made a raid on the village of Sfiltzin (Grevena), sacked the village, and took four hostages.

3. On the 25th eight brigands entered the dwelling of the wealthiest inhabitant of the village of Ravinia, named Kalanzi, scalded him with boiling water, and carried off all his property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)

Janina, January 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to supply you with the following information respecting the state of affairs here, and which appears to be very bad.

The Government, pressed it seems by want of money, are by all means endeavouring to levy the taxes, for which reason regular troops and Circassians are dispatched to the villages, while the peasants are in great distress and in danger of dying from starvation. But this is not the worst, for suspicion exists that a tendency to revolt prevails in the country, and the pressure which is brought to bear in the levying of taxes might push matters and give rise to disturbances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 240.)

Constantinople, February 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship a Report from Captain Swaine on military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Captain Swaine to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, February 23, 1880.

Sir,

THE "Commission de Contrôle" is very active. In another week we shall begin the month of March, and with it all army matters will be regulated under the new organization.

During the last ten days this Commission has been busy giving the army round Constantinople one month's pay.

In order to control the strength of its battalions the members have themselves gone to the different barracks. The troops were fallen-in, counted, and paid in their presence.

As soon as this duty is completed here, certain members of the Commission will proceed into the provinces, there to carry out the same principle.

They hope, by still further disbanding the redif battalions in Thessaly, Epirus, and Albania, and by reducing the nizam battalions to mere cadres, to be able to institute regular payments from the 1st May next.

If nothing unforeseen intervenes they will wipe out the past, and start afresh with a clean bill of health.

I may also add that for the last month a greater activity has been noticed at the

Seraskierate. More regularity seems to be finding its way into the Departments of that Ministry. For instance, about a month ago the officials under the old system handed over to the Secretary of the new Infantry Department 40,000 unanswered letters, some of them dating back as far as six years. Salih Pasha, its second chief, at once ordered them to be sorted, and what was not of importance or of recent date to be destroyed. Now already I hear that answers to letters addressed to that Department are given within a week.

This forced activity cannot last, but at any rate it is satisfactory to notice that energy is still to be found in a few of the Sultan's officers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. V. SWAINE.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 4.)

(No. 241.)

Constantinople, February 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying papers on the subject of the Greek Frontier question, which have been kindly communicated to me by the Greek Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Sawas Pasha to M. Condouriotis.

Sublime Porte, le 23 *Février*, 1880.

M. l'Envoyé,

ÉTANT aujourd'hui à même de donner satisfaction au désir formulé par nos honorables collègues dans le cours de notre dernière séance, désir dont votre Excellence a renouvelé l'expression par les deux notes qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser, en date des $\frac{3}{15}$ and $\frac{15}{27}$ Décembre, je m'empresse de lui soumettre par un court Mémoire une proposition qui servira, je l'espère, comme base à nos discussions ultérieures. Ce Mémoire répond d'ailleurs à celui que votre Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer par la première des deux notes précitées.

J'ai en outre l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence la réponse des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans au Mémoire lu et déposé par leurs honorables collègues dans la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, 1879.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien me dire quand elle croit qu'il nous sera possible de nous réunir pour discuter la proposition que j'ai l'honneur de lui soumettre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Memorandum.

EN réponse au Mémoire déposé par leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à nos honorables collègues les considérations que nous a suggérées l'étude de ce Mémoire sur chacun des six points qui y sont traités :—

Premier Point.—Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de le Grèce affirment que la ligne du thalweg est sous tous les rapports inacceptable, ce qui, suivant eux, n'a pas besoin d'être démontré, et que d'ailleurs elle présenterait plus d'inconvénients encore que la frontière actuelle, et soulèverait les mêmes difficultés que celle qui sont indiquées dans le Mémoire Ottoman.

Nous n'avons jamais défendu la ligne du thalweg. Au contraire, nous nous sommes toujours appliqués à en démontrer les graves et nombreux inconvénients. Cependant, plus d'un des éminents hommes d'Etat, qui ont siégé au Congrès de Berlin verra avec étonnement la façon dont nos honorables collègues envisagent l'idée qui paraît avoir été

adoptée par l'Aréopage Européen, et dont l'expression serait la ligne du thalweg que le Gouvernement Hellénique ne croit par même nécessaire de discuter. Les observations du Mémoire Ottoman au sujet de cette ligne tendaient d'ailleurs à la faire modifier de façon d'éviter les graves inconvénients qu'elle présentait, notamment celui de supprimer tous nos débouchés de terre et de mer. Quoi qu'il en soit, nous n'avons pas hésité à accepter le système Hellénique, consistant à tracer la ligne sur les hauteurs des vallées, nous bornant à appliquer ce système d'une façon équitable et rationnelle, en traçant la ligne à discuter sur les hauteurs méridionales et non sur les hauteurs septentrionales.

Deuxième et Troisième Points.—Le Mémoire critique toute ligne méridionale, lui attribue les plus graves inconvénients, et déclare qu'il est impossible d'établir sur cette base une ligne-frontière. Cependant nous avons suffisamment prouvé le contraire, en faisant tracer par les hommes les plus compétents la ligne que nous avons présentée comme ligne du Congrès, et que nous avons soumise à la discussion. D'ailleurs, ne serait-il pas véritablement unique de doubler l'étendue de la cession territoriale demandée à la Turquie sous le prétexte qu'une ligne tracée au sud, c'est-à-dire dans des conditions anormales, donnerait lieu à des difficultés. Un pareil raisonnement ne saurait trouver créance dans les Conseils de l'Europe.

Quatrième Point.—Il nous est absolument interdit de discuter la ligne présentée par le Gouvernement Royal de la Grèce, et d'examiner la valeur des arguments mis en avant pour le justifier. En effet, toute discussion doit avoir un but, et doit être engagée en vue de convaincre les contradictions ou d'être convaincues par eux. Or, tel n'est pas le cas actuel, puisque la ligne en question est repoussée de prime abord par des fins de non-recevoir insurmontables qui ont été nettement et amplement développées dans les explications écrites et orales que nous avons fournies, et qui, nous en sommes persuadés, ont porté la conviction dans l'esprit de tous les hommes d'Etat de l'Europe.

Qu'il nous soit permis à ce propos d'exprimer le regret que nos honorables collègues aient cru devoir nous présenter un travail à l'appui d'une ligne généralement repoussée et que nous les avions priés de retirer.

Cinquième Point.—En ce qui concerne la Thessalie, nous n'entrerons pas en discussion sur l'affirmation un peu trop absolue du Mémoire Hellénique concernant la prétendue homogénéité des populations de cette contrée. Mais en admettant que cet énoncé soit tout-à-fait exact, nous nous permettrons de demander ce qui adviendrait des Etats politiques du globe, si, sous prétexte d'homogénéité et de similitude de race et d'origine, on venait de remanier toutes les frontières. D'après ce système, tout district dont la majorité de la population seraient Grecque devrait être annexé au territoire Hellénique. Est-ce à ce résultat que désirent arriver nos honorables collègues ?

En ce qui concerne l'Epire, les considérations de nos collègues de Grèce sur le caractère et les causes de l'agitation qui s'est produite parmi la population Albanaise nous paraissent regrettables, à ce point de vue qu'elles trouveraient plus tôt leur place dans un réquisitoire diplomatique dirigé contre la Sublime Porte, que dans un Mémoire destiné à produire la conciliation et à amener l'entente entre les deux Hautes Parties. C'est pourquoi nous nous bornerons à affirmer, en réponse aux insinuations de cette partie du Mémoire Hellénique, que l'agitation qui existe parmi les populations de l'Epire n'a d'autre cause que la crainte d'être annexées à l'Etat voisin contre leur volonté formelle. Nous ajouterons qu'il n'y a pas lieu dès lors de rechercher à quelle race appartient cette partie si considérable de la population, mais bien de tenir compte de ses sentiments et de ses vœux et surtout des dangers auxquels ces contrées seraient exposées, si l'on venait à les méconnaître.

Nous nous sommes soigneusement abstenus de prononcer le mot "Albanais." Les Albanais ne sont à nos yeux que l'un des éléments les plus vitaux qui peuplent l'Empire; rien de plus, rien de moins. Il est naturel que cette population Ottomane, si dévouée au Trône, si fidèle à l'Etat, se préoccupe et s'agite en voyant qu'on veut l'enserrer dans les montagnes de l'Epire et le condamner à renoncer à tout espoir de progrès et de civilisation.

Nous demandons si cette population a moins le droit qu'une autre d'avoir sa place au soleil parcequ'elle parle une langue qui n'est ni le Turc ni le Grec, et si Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, son Souverain légitime, doit la priver pour cela de sa sollicitude paternelle et de sa protection.

Sixième Point.—Cette dernière partie du Mémoire Hellénique tend à démontrer que la population de l'Epire est presque entièrement composée de Grecs, et que l'élément Mussulman ou Israélite n'y figure guère que pour un sixième; d'où la conclusion qu'il n'y a point à redouter que l'annexion de cette contrée à la Grèce donne naissance à des troubles sérieux; qu'elle serait au contraire saluée par l'immense majorité de la population comme l'accomplissement trop longtemps attendu de ses vœux les plus ardents.

Cette solution est d'ailleurs déclarée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes comme étant seule propre à atteindre le but proposé et à assurer l'ordre et la paix dans ces contrées; tandisque, suivant eux, l'établissement de la ligne-frontière sur le thalweg du Calamas ou sur les hauteurs méridionales créerait un état de choses aussi fâcheux que celui auquel on entend porter remède.

Nous jugeons comme parfaitement inutile de réfuter ici les assertions de nos honorables collègues relativement à la composition de la population de l'Epire. Nous devons nous borner à contredire ces assertions au triple point de vue de la classification, de l'histoire, et de l'ethnographie des habitants de cette province, et à déclarer que si nous croyons avoir besoin, pour étayer notre thèse, de produire les chiffres exacts des éléments composant la population de l'Epire, nous prouverions jusqu'à l'évidence combien les statistiques dont on parle, et les données sur lesquelles elles ont été basées sont erronées et défectueuses. Elles ont été faites sur une idée préconçue et dans le but évident d'appuyer le principe d'homogénisme sur lequel on a cru pouvoir ériger le système de revendication embrassé par le Gouvernement Royal à propos des provinces limitrophes. Nous n'avons pas besoin de faire ici le dénombrement des sujets du Sultan et de rechercher l'origine de chacun d'eux pour prouver qu'ils doivent rester sous son sceptre. Grecs ou Turcs, Guègues ou Tosques, Musulmans, Chrétiens, ou Israélites, sont au même degré ses enfants et les sujets quatre fois séculaires, qu'il a également le devoir de conserver sans s'enquérir de leur origine de leur croyance.

Quant aux aspirations de ces populations et à leurs manifestations périodiques, nous désirons garder sur ce point le silence et n'être point obligés de les caractériser en en révélant la source et le mobile. Ainsi, en admettant même, ce qui n'est point, que les affirmations du Gouvernement Hellénique soient justifiées et que l'Epire ne soit habitée que par des Grecs de race et de religion, il n'en resterait pas moins certains qu'elle ne saurait être cédée à la Grèce parce qu'il est naturel qu'un pays, un district, une ville essentiellement Grec, reste attaché à un Empire dont le Souverain règne sur la grande majorité des Grecs.

Quant à la fidélité de ces populations que l'on veut mettre en doute et à l'épreuve, que nos honorables collègues nous proposent pour le constater, nous déclarons tout simplement que ce sont là des doctrines contraires à l'ordre Européen, des doctrines qui ont fait leur temps, et qui sont disparues pour faire place à des principes plus favorables à la sécurité publique et à la stabilité des Etats.

Arrivés au dernier paragraphe du Mémoire Hellénique, et désireuse de ne point traiter les questions brûlantes qu'il soulève et dont l'examen serait peut-être de nature à compromettre l'entente que nous recherchons avant tout, nous nous bornons à déclarer que personne plus que nous n'a reconnu la gravité de la question qui nous occupe et constaté qu'elle n'est pas née d'hier, parce que ce n'est pas d'hier que des aspirations dangereuses se sont fait jour au détriment de la tranquillité de ces contrées.

Ajoutons que nous sommes heureux d'entendre une fois de plus de la bouche de nos honorables collègues qu'il ne s'agit pas de dépouiller l'une des parties pour enrichir l'autre. Le principe de droit général, que nous avons invoqué, qui est du reste aussi bien un principe de morale, trouve son application dans le cas qui nous préoccupe, et s'est seulement en l'observant que nous éviterons qu'une question aussi élevée dégénère en un marché d'intérêt matériel. La question d'Orient à laquelle le Mémoire tend à rattacher avec raison la rectification des frontières recommandée à Berlin, est soumise dans ses différentes parties aux prescriptions du droit des gens et aux principes les plus élevés de la morale internationale. Si erreur il y a eu dans le passé, il serait dangereux de tenter d'y remédier par de nouvelles et plus graves erreurs qui auraient pour résultat inévitable des revendications et des haines implacables. Une inspiration n'est recommandable qu'autant qu'elle ne blesse point des intérêts légitimes et ne porte point atteinte à des droits séculaires dont la garde est confiée à l'humanité entière et par elle aux Gouvernements réguliers. Ces principes, respectons-les, et tâchons de les observer dans la solution qui nous occupe. Quant à la ligne dont il est une dernière fois question dans le Mémoire Hellénique, nous répondons que jamais il n'est entré dans les prévisions de l'Europe que la ligne générale qu'elle recommandait à Berlin doit être établie là où veulent la placer les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, qui, après avoir soutenus énergiquement et si longuement que les indications du Protocole ne constituaient pas un simple vote, mais bien un verdict impératif, les ont tout à coup abandonnées pour demander la cession d'un territoire plus que double de celui que pourrait raisonnablement comporter l'idée de la rectification de frontières demandée.

Quant à nous, fidèles à la promesse faite à l'Europe, nous demandons encore aujourd'hui, comme nous n'avons cessé de le faire, à discuter la ligne de Berlin.

Inclosure 3 in No. 48.

Memorandum.

LE Mémoire qui nous a été adressé en dernier lieu par nos honorables collègues contient d'abord la critique de la ligne indiquée dans notre dernière séance, comme étant la véritable ligne de Berlin, tracée d'ailleurs conformément au système préconisé par le Gouvernement Royal de la Grèce. En la soumettant à la discussion nous avions prié nos honorables collègues de vouloir bien l'étudier avec nous attentivement et minutieusement, à l'effet de la modifier et de la rendre également acceptable aux deux États. Nous avions d'autant plus insisté sur la nécessité de cette étude qu'à nos yeux cette ligne présentait à peu près les mêmes inconvénients que la ligne du thalweg, en ce sens qu'elle nous privait de tout débouché dans les Golfes d'Arta et Volo. Si nos collègues avaient bien voulu se prêter à cet examen, ils auraient certainement facilité la tâche commune et nous aurions pu, en tenant compte des convenances des deux Etats et des intérêts les plus vitaux des populations, trouver la ligne qui doit mettre fin à nos débats. Ils ne l'ont pas voulu.

Aujourd'hui ils présentent un travail qui critique cette ligne comme si elle avait été offerte à titre de ligne définitive ou adoptée par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Il nous resterait donc qu'à retirer la prière que nous leur avons adressée à entre dernière séance, et à insister auprès d'eux pour qu'elle reçoive aujourd'hui un meilleur accueil.

Quant à la ligne que nos collègues nous présentent comme une ligne nouvelle, il nous a suffi et il suffira à chacun de jeter les yeux sur la carte pour être convaincu que cette ligne suit, dans près des deux tiers de son parcours, le même tracé que la ligne précédemment indiquée par les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques, et que dans son dernier tiers elle n'en diffère qu'insensiblement.

Après la désapprobation générale qu'avait rencontrée la première ligne présentée à la Conférence par nos honorables collègues, nous ne nous attendions pas à les voir présenter comme une ligne nouvelle un tracé qui en réalité n'en est que la réproduction à peine amendée. Discuter cette ligne serait faire supposer que nous avons pu croire qu'elle paraîtrait digne de nous être recommandée, et cette crainte est bien éloignée de notre esprit. Nous nous en abstenons donc absolument.

Quant au travail scientifique présenté à l'appui de ce tracé, ainsi qu'à l'autre travail annexé au Mémoire lu par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, il est facile d'en faire justice. Il nous suffira pour cela de constater que l'auteur ne s'est préoccupé que d'obtenir pour son pays toutes les sécurités désirables et de priver l'autre pays de toute défense possible.

Nous aurions pu nous en tenir là sans encourir des reproches de la part des esprits impartiaux, mais, fidèles à nos idées de conciliation et désireux de donner satisfaction à nos honorables collègues, qui nous ont demandé une proposition concrète, nous n'hésitons pas à formuler les bases précises sur lesquelles nous espérons pouvoir établir l'entente désirée.

Ayant suffisamment démontré la nécessité absolue pour nos populations de conserver des débouchés dans les deux golfes, nous proposons à nos collègues d'infléchir les deux extremités de la ligne de Berlin que nous leur avons soumise, de façon à les faire aboutir vers le point de Thèbes du côté de Volo, et vers Anino du côté du Golfe Ambracique.

Pour le reste de la ligne, nous le discuterions avec nos honorables collègues en prenant autant qu'il nous sera possible leurs vœux en considération, et en nous efforçant d'arriver à un résultat pratique également acceptable par les deux Etats.

Nous ne doutons pas que la franchise avec laquelle nous formulons la proposition désirée par nos honorables collègues ne soit justement appréciée et que nos travaux ne prennent la direction pratique que nous avions essayé de leur donner, en proposant l'étude d'une ligne susceptible de subir les modifications qui seraient jugées nécessaires, après examen et discussion pour établir l'entente définitive entre les deux Etats.

No. 49.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 25, 1880.*

AS soon as it was known here that several of the great Powers had acknowledged the independence of Roumania, this Government followed their example. A Roumanian

Minister is expected at Athens in a few days, and the Greek Government has proposed to the Chamber to vote a salary for the Greek Agent about to be named to reside at Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 50.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 52. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to the memorandum inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 42, Secret and Confidential, of the 16th instant, that Mr. Mounsey has received from Baron de Wacken, the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, a full confirmation of all the essential items of information contained in that document.

Baron de Wacken, who was not aware that Mr. Mounsey had any knowledge of the information in question, begged the latter gentleman to consider his communication as most strictly confidential.

In regard to M. Paparigoupoulo, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, Baron de Wacken said that the King of Greece had stated to him on the 24th instant that he had caused inquiries to be made at Rome regarding his proceedings, and that, from the answers he had received, His Majesty felt convinced that M. Paparigoupoulo had no connection with the Italian intrigues in the Balkan Peninsula and Albania.

Baron de Wacken stated, however, to Mr. Mounsey that his despatches from Vienna mentioned M. Paparigoupoulo's implication in these intrigues in such an explicit manner that he still felt doubts as to the correctness of the King's information.

He added that he had every reason to believe that the intrigues in question were strongly encouraged and supported by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 51.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 3, 1880.*

I HAVE in my possession printed copy of Rules of local Gymnast Society, dated 30th January last, with the names of President, Secretary, and Treasurer; the two last the same as those on the circular against the Greeks.

The Rules are almost similar to those forwarded in my despatch No. 340, but much more stringent, with heavier penalties under the 9th Article.

The dissolution decreed by the Governor-General was therefore a mere device, like recent Order on the same subject.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 52.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 3, 1880.*

MY Russian colleague, coming from the Governor-General, has endeavoured to induce Finance Director to resign on plea of ill-health, or any other pretext, to avoid being dismissed for declared intention of communicating with Prime Minister.

The Director will not take course pressed upon him.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 53.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 33.?)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 3, 1880.*

STRONGLY reported force has been beaten vilayet frontier. Arms have been distributed by Society in town to-day to all males over fifteen.

Thirty mounted gendarmes will be sent to-morrow to Haskeui.

St. Clair is reported to be at the head of the invaders.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 54.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 4, 1880.*

YOURS No. 16.

I have communicated substance of your telegram respecting Greek frontier to Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, who will submit it to Prince Bismarck.

I have reason to believe that the German Government will concur, and will accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1880.*

I HAVE communicated your proposal about the Greek frontier to the Austrian Government, and I have no doubt their acceptance of it will be given without delay.

No. 56.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4, 3 P.M.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1880, 11·40 A.M.*

FOLLOWING from Michell, dated 2nd:—

"Bulgarian Protestant clergyman has made urgent appeal to me for aid to Bulgarians of Bania district; Nevrocop, Macedonia, in great distress for food, clothing, shelter, in starving condition, several families living together in half-burnt house; 25*l.* and less would be welcome; if your Excellency has funds, should much like to assist them."

No. 57.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1880.*

I HAVE much pleasure in expressing to you my approval of the steps taken by you for the relief of the Mussulman refugees at Kezanlyk, as reported in your despatch No. 50 of the 13th ultimo. It is desirable that, as arranged by you, assistance shall be given in such a form as to test the real need of the recipients.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 47 of the 12th ultimo, reporting your observations to the Bulgarian Metropolitan Panaretos, as to the evils which must inevitably ensue from the course pursued by the Secret Committees in Eastern Roumelia and the Gymnastic Societies acting under their directions. Your language upon this subject has my approval.

Her Majesty's Government took at the time every opportunity of remonstrating against the distribution of arms and ammunition to the Gymnastic Societies and Bulgarian population of the province. The representations of the British Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to the Russian Government on this point were repeated more than once, and whatever may be the consequence of this unfortunate measure, Her Majesty's Government feel that the responsibility must rest with those who persisted in it against frequent and earnest warning of its dangers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 2*G* Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 23, 1880.*

ATTEMPTS to effect an exchange for the Gusinjé-Plava district still appear to be going on both at Constantinople and Cettinjé, but I have not ascertained that in any of the proposals brought forward the slightest account has been taken of what the Albanians may consider or do in the matter, and, from what I hear from Chiefs and other natives, I think that the omission may prove the rock upon which nearly any settlement agreed upon will be shipwrecked.

A very strong feeling is being nursed among the inhabitants in these districts to oppose all peaceable solutions of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, and solemn engagements have been entered into by the Chiefs and the tribes—Mahommedan and Christian—to resist the slightest cession of Albanian territory to Montenegro in whatever direction it may be made.

An impression exists that the Ottoman Government has become indifferent as to its own authority in North Albania, and that, provided the encroachments of the Montenegrins and Austrians can be checked, it will not attempt to prevent the breaking up of the province into fragments, each to be under the control of a feudal Chief; that, therefore, hostile operations against Montenegro will be facilitated through the inaction of the Imperial Government, and will even be secretly assisted.

Another cause preventing a peaceable solution is the discontent of the Albanians at having, as they imagine, been forgotten in the arrangements come to in Berlin for the advancement of the different Ottoman nationalities. This feeling is especially acute among the Christian sections of the population, and as their Chiefs now commence to see that all hope of aid from abroad is receding to a distant future, they are determined to endeavour to precipitate events by joining their Mahommedan compatriots who, partly moved by religious fervour and partly by a desire to regain their ancient quasi-independence, are rapidly maturing plans for an attack on Montenegro, whether the latter country renounces or not its claims to her territory conceded to it by Treaty.

For these reasons, as I have already stated, I think the chances at present of a peaceful settlement of the Albano-Montenegrin frontier very small; and I am still under the belief, from what I learn of the Turkish proposals, that this must also be the conviction of the Porte, although it is endeavouring to produce a contrary impression.

I shall not be able to understand that the Turkish Government sincerely desires the fulfilment of its engagements towards Montenegro until it takes efficacious measures for its accomplishment, or as long as it makes proposals foredoomed to failure.

All cessions of territory to the east of the Lake of Scutari are sure to meet with effective opposition from the Albanians, and, as yet, the Turkish local, civil, and military authorities, have done and are doing nothing to lessen the value of such opposition; on the contrary, it would be difficult to prove that they are not the mainsprings to it.

An offer of a fair exchange to the west of Lake Scutari, and which might include Dulcigno and a portion of the right bank of the River Boyana; in fact, the territory conquered by Montenegro and evacuated on the surrender of Podgoritza in February 1879, would remove all doubt as to the sincerity of the Porte's proposal to ransom Gusinjé-Plava. In this corner of territory, dominated by the garrison of Scutari, and also completely under the control of naval power, the Albanians would be unable to seriously break away from the Government, and their threats of opposition could be disregarded. Besides, the junction of this district to the Principality would add nothing to the latter's defensive strength, and would, like Antivari and Podgoritza, require the employment of a permanent force to hold it.

Montenegro has recently shown such good faith in its acceptance of the restraints placed upon its maritime possession of Antivari that the Austrian Government might, perhaps, be induced to recall to mind that at Berlin Gusinjé was given as compensation for Dulcigno, and consent to so slight a prolongation of the Montenegrin coast-line. Austria would further benefit herself at the same time by securing tranquillity in the districts adjoining the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, where violent commotion can only be looked for as long as the cession of Gusinjé-Plava remains an open question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 60.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 34. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 4, 1880.*

I BEG humbly to suggest that the best form of interference in the interests of the province itself, and those of its several races, now suffering from otherwise incurable revolutionary proceedings of Bulgarian agitators, would be to place administration and the application of the Statutes in the hands of the European Commission for one year. Latter should exercise present powers of Governor-General, whose functions would be suspended.

Mixed occupation would not be necessary. Sufficient to have 10,000 Ottoman troops on the frontier ready to enter, and a garrison in this town composed chiefly of indigenous Turkish and Greek militiamen previously enrolled.

At first each Commissioner might have small body-guard of his own troops, suggestive of a mixed occupation if ultimately unavoidable.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 61.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 4, 1880.*

EMPEROR of Russia has conferred Grand Crosses of St. Ann on the Governor-General and St. Stanislas on the General.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 62.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 99.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 53 and 54, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs begs to thank your Lordship for your communication as to the International Commission to settle Greek frontier question, and to assure you that, out of deference to Her Majesty's Government, every consideration will be given to it; but as the matter involves two great principles, namely, result to the security of the Sultan's dominions in cession of any part of Epirus, and His Majesty's sovereign rights, he hopes that your

Lordship will make due allowance for any delay that may take place in giving an answer.

No. 63.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 4, 1880, 11 P.M.*

I COMMUNICATED this morning the proposal in your Lordship's telegram No. 17 for settlement of Greek frontier question, and I have just received from Count Maffei a note stating that the King's Government accepts the method proposed by England in the hope that a prompt solution may thus be arrived at.

No. 64.

Mr. Pender, M.P., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

Dear Lord Salisbury, 66, *Old Broad Street, E.C., London, March 6, 1880.*

THE inclosed letter from our Agent at Constantinople, addressed to Sir James Anderson, our Managing Director, refers to the business in regard to which I ventured to ask your Lordship to use your good offices with Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

The letter may interest you, as I believe it gives a fair expression of public opinion on the state of the Turkish Government at the present moment.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN PENDER.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Mr. Serpos to Sir J. Anderson.

Constantinople, February 27, 1880.

Sir,

HEREWITH copy of my telegram of Wednesday last:—

"Must not conceal saying real truth. As long as present Ministry in power there is not the least hope whatever any matter will be settled; Ambassador's representations, and Director-General's personal efforts getting Firman fruitless. Letter explaining everything by first mail."

In order to account for this it is necessary for me to explain the peculiar position in which Turkey stands at the present moment, a position which I cannot but believe is not fully appreciated by the English Government or the English people.

First, I must inform you that this country is no longer governed by the Grand Vizier and the Council of Ministers, but by a clique of Palace functionaries who have the ear of the Sultan, and who have induced him to take everything upon himself, and to allow himself to be led in every way by their evil counsels. You will easily understand that it is the interest of these gentlemen to throw every obstacle in the way of progress, and to exclude as much as possible all foreigners or foreign associations from the country.

The present Prime Minister, Said Pasha, is a man of no special ability, and is in truth nothing but a tool of those who have more wit than himself. He is, however, clever enough to see that his only chance of remaining in power is to pamper the Sultan, and to supply the Palace generally with the enormous sums required for the support of its many inmates. One of the best ways of securing the Sultan's favour is to turn a deaf ear to the representations of the Ambassadors, and Said Pasha boasts that he is the first Vizier who has completely succeeded in freeing his country from Diplomatic control! This is not an empty boast, for the British Ambassador is at present utterly powerless to obtain a satisfactory answer to any demand he may make, and, indeed, in many cases his letters remain unanswered for months together. This Ministry of obstruction does not even stop here, for they appear to have made up their minds that as long as they remain in power nothing shall be done.

Putting out of the question the various demands for concessions, many of which have remained in the same condition as ours, there are numberless matters of interior

organization remaining unsettled, although in most cases the Porte is a serious loser of money.

This state of things cannot of course last; either the Ministry must fall, or Turkey must in reality cease to exist as an independent Power. My opinion is that the first-mentioned solution will not long be delayed, and a new Grand Vizier appointed, whose policy will be to make some sort of reparation for the misdeeds of his predecessor. Then, and not until then, can we hope to settle our matter; and I am taking every measure to have everything ready to seize the first favourable opportunity for bringing it to a satisfactory termination. The Turkish Director-General is equally anxious to obtain ratification, and has already addressed two letters to the Porte urging them to settle the matter. Sir Henry Layard has pressed the question warmly, and we may say safely that the moment there is an end to the present dead-lock, our demand will be one of the first to be considered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. SERPOS.

No. 65.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 5, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 3rd instant, may I give to Greek Government memorandum of terms of proposal to be submitted to other Powers concerned, agreed upon by Her Majesty's Government and French Government?

No. 66.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 5, 1880.*

CHIEF of Staff, just returned from disturbed district, states matter has been greatly exaggerated. Only 300 Turks entered the province, without doing harm, although impressing portion of male population which retired with them.

Militiamen, authorized by Russian officers, burnt four abandoned Turkish villages. Large village in which Chief of Staff had slept was fired and destroyed five minutes after he left. The few old women and men remaining in villages sought his protection against the soldiers. Russian officer, when called to account, said he was Slavophil, and wanted to do good to the province by ridding it of the Turks. Same officer mobilized 2,000 gymnasts, real object being rapine and plunder.

(Sent to Pera).

No. 67.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 5, 1880.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL goes to-morrow to frontier to inquire personally into wanton burning Turkish villages by militia.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 68.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(No.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 5, 1880.*

PROCUREUR-GÉNÉRAL is decidedly of opinion that an imminent catastrophe in this province can only be obviated by immediate and radical measures. The Greeks will rise, and probably Turks also, against their oppressors.

At utmost tranquillity can be preserved until Greek Easter, seven weeks hence.

Prosecution of authors of Circular was placed in his hands only three days ago, after the chief offender had fled.

It has been intimated to the Procureur-Général, on the part of the Governor-General, that he must not make serious inquiry.

In this town Greek shopkeepers are being ruined; the Bulgarians say they are afraid of excommunication if they frequent them.

Agents of Society follow villagers to prevent dealings with Greeks.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 5, 1880, 7 P.M.*

ALI BEY is again preparing for hostilities, and has announced to the Albanian Tribunal that they must be ready to join him for an attack on Podgoritza by the 5th May.

Montenegrins are fortifying latter place, and there are no signs here of the Turkish authorities or Albanians believing an arrangement possible.

(Sent to Constantinople).

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1880.*

YOUR telegrams Nos. 30 and 34.

If we had a friendly Government at Constantinople, intervention by means of Ottoman troops would be possible, and might be advantageous, whenever Governor did anything at variance with Constitution or Treaty.

But in such a case it would probably be wiser not to attempt a formally International Government, which seldom succeeds, but to leave the administration nominally in hands of Turkish authorities under adequate supervision.

This resource is, however, at present impossible, as we have not a friendly Government at Constantinople, and the Sultan has no sufficient force. For the moment, therefore, you must continue as you have been doing. Give Aleko the best advice you can, and take every opportunity of bringing into public view the oppression used towards Greeks and Mahommedans.

No. 71.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1880.*

COUNT KÁROLYI called at the Foreign Office on the 2nd instant, and expressed the gratification of the Austro-Hungarian Government at the recognition by Her Majesty's Government of the independence of Roumania. His Excellency also said that he had been instructed to convey officially their thanks for the instructions which had been given to Mr. White to let it be known at Bucharest that the recognition had been earnestly urged by Austria-Hungary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 72.

Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, March 6, 1880.*

RAOUF PASHA is starting this afternoon for Hermanly, to meet Aleko Pasha.

The Governors of Mustapha-Pasha and Sultan-Yeri report great cruelties committed

by Bulgarians, in consequence of which large numbers of Mussulmans are flying over the border.

Réouf Pasha has ordered the Governors of Demotica and Gumurdjina to proceed to the frontier, in order to relieve destitute fugitives.

Alcko Pasha's journey to Hermanly is due to an order from the Porte, elicited by Réouf Pasha's representations respecting the impunity with which the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia are now allowed to persecute the Turks.

An emigration of Mussulmans from Slivno and Yeni-Zaghra has also commenced, and the Mussulman inhabitants of those districts have sent a petition to the Consuls in this town relating various recent outrages, and declaring that, unless their condition improves, they will be compelled to quit their country *en masse*.

Fifty Turks have lately been arbitrarily expelled by the Prefect of Slivno, but have been sent back to Philippopoli by Réouf Pasha.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 73.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 7.*)

(No. 39.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 6, 1880.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has gone to concert with Réouf Pasha measures for pacification of disturbed district, not to inquire into wanton destruction of Turkish villages by militia and the mobilization of 2,000 gymnasts to assist militia.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 74.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 7.*)

(No. 40.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 6, 1880.

DIRECTOR of Finance will tell my Russian colleague to-day that he does not intend to resign.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 75.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 8.*)

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that MM. de Bacourt and Von Rothenhan, the Gerants of the Consulates-General of France and Germany at Bucharest, and myself, called together at the Foreign Office here this day at noon, where we met M. Boeresco, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, by appointment.

Having been introduced together, we delivered to his Excellency each of us in turn identical notes, dated this day, as instructed by our respective Governments, and the text of which we had previously carefully compared.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note thus delivered by myself.

His Excellency appeared highly gratified, and assured us that he would immediately communicate the contents of our identic notes to his colleagues and lay them before the Prince.

By this act Roumania has been recognized by France, Germany, and Great Britain, and I was able on the same day to open diplomatic relations in due form.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 75.

English Text of Identical Note presented to the Roumanian Government, February 20, 1880.

Bucharest, February 20, 1880.

THE Undersigned, British Representative at Bucharest, has the honour, by order of his Government, to convey to M. Boeresco, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Roumania, the following communication:—

Her Britannic Majesty's Government has been informed, through the Agent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Roumania at Paris, of the promulgation, on the 25th October, 1879, of a Law, voted by the "Chambres de Révision" of the Principality, for the purpose of bringing the text of the Roumanian Constitution into conformity with the stipulations inserted in Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government cannot consider the new Constitutional provisions which have been brought to its cognizance—and particularly those by which persons belonging to a non-Christian creed domiciled in Roumania, and not belonging to any foreign nationality, are required to submit to the formalities of individual naturalization—as being a complete fulfilment of the views of the Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

Trusting, however, to the determination of the Prince's Government to approximate more and more, in the execution of these provisions, to the liberal intentions entertained by the Powers, and taking note of the positive assurances to that effect which have been conveyed to them, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty, being desirous of giving to the Roumanian nation a proof of their friendly sentiments, have decided to recognize the Principality of Roumania as an independent State, Her Majesty's Government declare themselves ready to enter into regular diplomatic relations with the Prince's Government.

In bringing the decision come to by his Government to the knowledge of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 76.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 8.*)

(No. 39.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 20, 1880.

I HAD the honour this day to present my letters of credence in public audience to His Royal Highness Prince Charles I, when I was received with a ceremonial in strict conformity with my new official rank at this Court.

His Royal Highness was pleased to express his high sense of appreciation of Her Majesty the Queen's gracious message, and I think I cannot do better than transcribe, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the words spoken by him on that occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Words spoken by His Royal Highness Prince Charles I of Roumania, on the occasion of the presentation of his Letters of Credence by Mr. White, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, at Bucharest, February 20, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

JE suis heureux de recevoir les lettres par lesquelles Sa Majesté la Reine votre auguste Souveraine vous accrédite en qualité de son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire auprès de moi. Je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de vous assurer du désir que j'éprouve de voir s'établir les meilleurs rapports entre la Roumanie et la Grande Bretagne, espérant que les liens d'amitié qui existent entre les deux pays se consolideront de plus en plus dans l'avenir. Les sentiments affectueux que Sa Majesté la Reine veut bien me témoigner me touchent tout particulièrement; j'ai vu une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments dans l'empressement que vous avez mis à présenter vos lettres de créance. Je suis charmé que votre Souveraine ait fait choix de votre personne pour la représenter à ma Cour, ayant pu apprécier les hautes qualités qui vous distinguent et connaissant l'intérêt sympathique que vous portez à la Roumanie. Mon Gouvernement

s'empressera de faire tout ce qui dépendra de lui pour faciliter votre mission, que je souhaite vous voir remplir de longues années auprès de moi.

No. 77.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)

Bucharest, February 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have ascertained that the Roumanian Government have determined to make a direct appeal to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, requesting that the decision of the Delimitation Commission as to their new frontier with Bulgaria may be upheld and carried out.

A note to that effect has been addressed by M. Boeresco to the Roumanian Representatives at Constantinople, Rome, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and St. Petersburgh, and has been forwarded by telegraph, with instructions to M. Callimaki Catargi to give a copy to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, for communication to your Lordship.

No immediate answer is, however, expected, but it is hoped that no unnecessary delay will be allowed to interpose in the definite adjudication of this question, which is of primary importance to Roumania, and in which Austria and Her Majesty's Government have all along taken a warm interest, and that this country will be placed at last in a position to have its custom-houses, &c.

The arrogant tone assumed by Russia on this question, and the pressure applied from St. Petersburgh to entangle the Government of Prince Charles into separate secret negotiations on the subject, were brought under your Lordship's notice by me in a despatch dated the 2nd instant, and likewise by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna on the 15th instant, but have thus turned out a failure.

The Russian overtures had remained unanswered, and the step adopted by this Government is not likely to produce an agreeable impression at St. Petersburgh, when the communication addressed to all the Signatory Powers shall have been received there, as affording a fresh and indubitable proof that Roumania is determined to hold the Dobrudscha on the terms assigned by the Treaty of Berlin, and not in virtue of any separate arrangement with its powerful neighbour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 78.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 44.)

Bucharest, March 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE following three gentlemen have been sent to Berlin as Commissioners to act on behalf of the Roumanian Government with respect to all questions that may arise in carrying out the Convention for the purchase of the railway lines by the State, viz., Mr. D. Stourdza, till lately Minister of Finance; Mr. Callendero, a member of the High Court of Cassation, and Colonel Dabija.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 79.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 16.)

Belgrade, February 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of an exhaustive and able despatch, No. 7, dated the 23rd instant, inclosing a translation of the Agrarian Bill lately passed by the Skuptschina, from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, in which he directs attention to the principal sections of the above Act, and the facts and circumstances affecting them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Mr. Baker to Mr. Gould.

Sir,

Nisch, February 23, 1880.

I BEG to send you inclosed an English translation of the Agrarian Act, as amended and passed by the Skuptschina on the 15th instant, and in doing so I venture to make the following observations:—

1. The Act resembles in some degree an English Copyhold Enfranchisement Act, inasmuch as it provides for the merger of the lords' rights in those of the tenants, subject to the payment of compensation by the latter to the former.

2. The landlords were never "seized" of the lands comprised in this Act, but held them as tenants of the Sultan, as lord paramount, and by virtue of grants direct or indirect from him. In most cases the lands were, at the time of the grants, and still are, cultivated by peasants residing thereon, and who claim rights with regard to the beneficial enjoyment of the lands. These rights are of various kinds and degrees, in some cases amounting to the practical ownership of the land; in others they are so burdened with rent (either of money or of kind), or obligation to work for the "lord," that their value is almost a negative quantity.

3. The estates of the lords may be divided into their principal classes:—

(*a.*) Unsettled Tschiflik-sajbijn, a freehold estate of inheritance in land, which, at the time of the grant, was not "settled" by peasants, and over which no peasants have since acquired rights. Such estates are excluded from the operation of the Act (see section 39).

(*b.*) Settled Tschiflik-sajbija (see section 4), a freehold estate of inheritance in lands, which, either at the time of the grant was (or at some later period has become) settled by peasants, who have held such lands and cultivated them "at the will of the lord." Such peasants have occupied a similar position to that of the villeins of English copyholds of the Middle Ages. These peasants are absolutely "tenants of will," and the lord could demand as much of the produce of the soil or as much labour as he thought proper; though generally he would be satisfied with one-fifth, two-ninths, one-third, or one-half of the produce a certain number of days' work. He could also eject the tenants without notice; but, as no free labour market exists in the East, ejections have not been frequent, and most landlords and tenants have come to a permanent understanding as to rents and services, and thus nearly all small estates have become "Gospodarlik."

(*c.*) Gospodarlik (see section 2). This is a freehold estate of inheritance, but in lands occupied and enjoyed by peasants, who have the legal right to retain their holdings subject only to a certain rent in cash or in kind, or a *redendum* of devetak (the ninth part of the crop). The gospodar, or "lord," has no power to eject the tenant or change the conditions of his tenure without his consent. Nearly all the estates to which this Agrarian Act applies are Gospodarlik.

4. The object of the Act being the enfranchisement of the peasants on "Settled Tschiflik-sajbija" and on "Gospodarlik" estates, its sections may be divided into two groups:—

(1.) Those which enunciate the principles or bases on which the enfranchisement is to be made; and

(2.) Those which provide for the machinery by which it is to be carried out.

5. First, as to principles:—

Section 5 enfranchises all tenants of "Gospodarlik" of one year's standing and upwards (subject to compensation to lord).

Section 6 enfranchises all tenants (*i.e.*, tenants at will, *vide* paragraph 3, *supra.*) of "settled" Tschiflik-sajbija of ten years' standing (subject to compensation to lord).

Section 7 entitles tenants of "settled" Tschiflik-sajbija of less than ten years' standing to buy their holdings at the market price, or each to retain his house and 5 jochs of land.

Section 8 reserves the landlord's right to sell other lands, subject to the condition that, if he sells within five years, the local inhabitants shall have the right of pre-emption at the market price.

Section 9 provides that the landlord's compensation for enfranchisement shall be based on the average yearly rents receivable by him; and

Section 13, that landlords and tenants may arrange the amount of compensation between them privately; whilst

Section 26 provides that such compensation (if not otherwise arranged between the parties) shall be equal to seven or eight years' purchase, *i.e.*, seven years where the rent is payable in cash and eight years where it is payable in kind. But under

Section 28 the landlord of "settled" Tschiflik-sajbija has the option of retaining so much of his estate as remains after apportioning to each tenant (being a poll-tax payer), in addition to his house, 5 jochs of land at a price of 6 fr., 10 fr., or 20 fr. per joch, according to the quality of the land.

6. With regard to sections 26 and 28, I would remark that, within the whole area over which these Gospodarliks and Tschiflik estates extend, 12 per cent. is the usual interest paid for capital borrowed on good security; so that seven years' purchase would represent 84 per cent. and eight years' purchase 96 per cent. of what would be the market value of the landlord's rents if such were regularly paid, and could be recovered without difficulty. But, as a matter of fact, the rents (especially those in kind) are the subject of interminable disputes, and are only recoverable with great difficulty; and during the last two years the peasants (under the mistaken idea that the result of the last war was a practical enfranchisement from all rents and services to those who held under the Sultan) have almost unanimously refused to pay any rent whatever, and have retained the produce of the soil for their own use. Most of the landlords would, under these circumstances, have been satisfied with the seven or eight years' purchase if paid down in one sum; but under section 27 an enfranchised tenant might claim to pay by instalments extending over five years, with interest at 6 per cent. per annum only. Many landlords were dissatisfied with any arrangement by which they would have to wait, and the Servian Government, in order to meet their views, introduced into the Bill, the day before it was passed, clause 28, giving landlords the option of retaining their estates on renouncing to the tenants 5 jochs a-piece, &c. (*vide supra.*).

With this clause the landlords declared themselves satisfied, except that they thought the price per joch should have been 30, 20 or 12 francs, instead of 20, 10 or 6 francs per joch. But after the passing of the Bill, they discovered for the first time, it would seem, that this clause 28 referred to Tschiflik-sajbija only, and not to Gospodarlik, which was left to the operation of sections 26 and 27. This discovery caused a great deal of dissatisfaction, and the landlords are now by no means so moderate in their demands as they were seven or even two months ago, and, in fact, they are agitating for an immediate amendment of the Act in the sense of extending section 28 to Gospodarlik, the repealing of section 27, and the raising of the number of years' purchase provided for by section 26.

7. As to these proposed amendments, I would beg to remark that the circumstances of most "Gospodarlik" estates render it impossible to bring with justice such estates within the operation of section 28.

An example will best illustrate the difficulty: If a peasant hold 50 jochs of Gospodarlik at a rent of one-ninth (devetak), his interest in those 50 jochs would be more than eight times as valuable as the 5 jochs he would (under section 28) have the privilege of purchasing at a low price, and, therefore, that right of pre-emption would only be a nominal and not a real compensation for his extinguished rights in the 50 jochs.

But with regard to sections 26 and 27 the case is different. Eight years' purchase of all rents (whether in cash or in kind) would, if paid down in one sum, satisfy the majority of landlords. And it would not be difficult for the Servian Government to make arrangements to advance the amount of the enfranchisement purchase-money on security of the enfranchised land to such tenants as should be unable to pay the money immediately in one sum.

8. The sections (16, 17, 30 *et alia*) which provide for compensation and interest to be payable (like the rent they represent) in kind are exceedingly objectionable, as they are calculated to perpetuate the unseemly disputes which have always attended payments in kind in this district, and which have often ended in crops perishing, unharvested, on the ground.

9. As to machinery for executing the act, section 22 provides for a Commission in each county, consisting of a president and two members, assisted in some cases (see section 25) by two arbitrators appointed by the landlord and two by the tenants, and the duties of the Commission are defined by section 23 to be—

1. To receive claims not sent in to the Commission of 1879.
2. To ascertain the average annual rents or values.
3. To fix the amounts of compensation and the terms of payment.

From the Commission's decision on these points there will be no appeal, but questions of law and title will (under sections 24, 32, 36 *et alia*) be decided by the County Court.

10. As pointed out in paragraph 7 and 8 *supra*, the act requires amendment, but it must be borne in mind that the Servian Government had considerable difficulty in passing the Bill at all. Most of the landlords are Mahommedans, all the members of the

Skuptschina are Christians, and most of them peasants, who look upon the incidents of the "Tschiflik" and "Gospodarlik" tenure (especially the payment of, as in many cases, half of the produce, and the obligation to work for the landlord) as mere evidence of a serfdom, from which they believe the war has, or ought to have, freed them. Nearly all the speeches during the debate on the Bill were against its compensation clauses, and some of the speakers attacked the titles of the landlords as founded in fraud and force, and this is violent language, which was often indorsed by the applause of the great majority of both sides of the House. In fact, it was only the energy with which the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Justice supported the Bill which secured its passing. Whether the Government could carry in the next Session of the Skuptschina a Bill amending the present Act, so as to make it in any considerable degree more favourable to the landlords, is (judging from the temper of the great majority of members as exhibited in the recent debates) a matter of much doubt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Bill concerning the Agrarian Question in the new Enfranchised Territories.

(Translation.)

Section 1. This law prescribes the Regulations which are to govern the relations of those properties which, during the Turkish Government, formed the so-called "landlords' and peasants' Tschiflik lands," in the new enfranchised districts; between, on the one hand, "Gospodars" or "Tschiflik-sajbija" (landlords), who from such lands have enjoyed certain benefits, and, on the other hand, those (peasants) who have held possession of such lands and cultivated them.

Section 2. As Gospodarske ("Agaloutchke") lands are to be considered, those in respect of which those (peasants) who worked and cultivated them had to pay to the landlords an annual rent, either in money, lard, cheese, or a part of the ground produce, or the ninth part of the crop ("devetak"); but in respect of which property the landlord had not the right to let the land to another (tenant) to cultivate, or to change the kind of the stipulated rent, after such lands had become as "bashtina" (manor-lord) for those persons who held and worked it.

Section 3. Under the word "Tschiflik" is, in the true acceptation of the term, to be understood arable land, which is worked, and the produce of which is harvested every year. The area of a "Tschiflik" is, in the case of ground of the first quality, 70 to 80 dulums; in the case of ground of the second quality 100 dulums; and in the case of ground of the third quality, from 130 dulums. A dulum has in the length and breadth 40 ordinary steps, or 1,600 arsins (an ars is somewhat shorter than a yard).

But generally the word Tschiflik is to be understood to be land, together with the buildings which are erected thereon, where the cattle, corn, implements of agriculture, and other requisites necessary for agriculture on the rented ground are brought under shelter.

Section 4. Settled Tschiflik lands are lands which the settlers (farmers) have held and cultivated uninterruptedly for ten years before the beginning of the Servian Government in the new enfranchised territories, and for which there was payable to others (the "Tschiflik-sajbijas") two-ninths, one-fifth, one-third, or the half of the produce of the ground, or a certain number of labourers.

These lands were contemplated as the property of the Tschiflik owners ("Tschiflik-sajbija"), and these had the right to let and farm their properties to whom they would at their own will and pleasure, and also to change the kind of rent and reservation.

Section 5. Every person who, for one year before the beginning of the Servian Government in the new enfranchised territories, held and cultivated Gospodarske land (see section 2), at whatever rent, is, by virtue of this law, released from such rent, and is to be contemplated as owner of the same land, but nevertheless under the condition that such enfranchised tenant shall pay compensation to the landlord who has hitherto enjoyed the rent of the same land.

Section 6. With regard to Tschiflik lands, those only who, without interruption during ten years, have held and cultivated such lands under some certain rent, are, by this law, enfranchised from such rent, but under the condition that they pay compensation to the Tschiflik-sajbijas (Tschiflik owners) who enjoyed the rent of the hereby enfranchised land.

Section 7. To all Tschiflik settlers who have cultivated land less than ten years before the commencement of the Servian Government in the new enfranchised territories is the Tschiflik possessor, under this law, bound to surrender the property at the local price, or to surrender to every poll-tax payer five morgen lands, in addition to his house and its appurtenances.

Section 8. With the exception of the "Gospodarske" and settled Tschifliks, which are defined by sections 2 and 4 of this Act, the landlords and Tschiflik possessors may dispose of all other undisputed possessions, as also of those of the settlers of Tschifliks whose "house-partners" fail to agree to redeem their lands under section 7. Only in that case, when the proprietors wish to sell those properties within the period of five years (reckoned from the day of the commencement of this Act), they, the owners, shall announce the intended sale to the local inhabitants where the properties are situate; if the local inhabitants should not agree to buy the property at the current price, the owner may sell his properties to other persons.

But after the lapse of five years every limitation or restriction relative to the sale of such properties shall cease.

Section 9. The compensation which the landlords and Tschiflik proprietors will receive for their properties, which, under section 5 and section 6 of this Act are to be transferred to, and are to be the property of those who have cultivated them, will be calculated according to the average yearly produce which the landlords or Tschiflik possessors have received, which right those who have holden and cultivated the lands shall have no power to dispute.

Section 10. All ascertained rents, which arise from the "Gospodarske" or from the "settled" lands, whether payable in cash or in kind or otherwise, shall be capable of enfranchisement or merger by purchase.

Section 11. Everyone who, under this Act, becomes absolute owner of "Gospodarske" land can, once for all, pay the ascertained capitalization of the rents and annual dues of his ground, as well for separate as for several pieces, if the same be burdened or encumbered in the same manner. If several persons have together farmed land, and in company paid the rents and dues thereof, then can the purchase of the same not be divided, but must be by agreement amongst those who together paid the rents or dues.

Section 12. Only with the permission of the landlord can the owners of single parts of the property redeem and pay the purchase money *pro rata*.

But yet separate tenants can undertake the payment of the whole sum, and in this case they shall have the right against the other partakers of that benefit to receive from every single partaker what they shall have paid for him. Every one of the partakers can pay his part for himself.

Section 13. The owners of such properties can negotiate the purchase (*i.e.*, enfranchisement) with the landlords, who allege their right to the rents.

The contracts concluded on the basis of the negotiated conditions between the parties shall, under no pretence, lose in force, even though the purchase-money be higher or lower than is defined by section 9 of this Act.

Section 14. The guardians of the landlords, not yet of full age, and the guardians of others who may be under curatorship, may, without any preceding valuation commission by a voluntary understanding, conclude contracts in respect of the manner of the payment of the rents belonging to those persons to whom they are guardians.

But in all those cases they shall regard the will of the relatives (living in the country) of the person whose property they administer.

Section 15. When the parties concerned cannot come to an agreement with reference to the purchase-money, then shall the affair be dealt with according to section 26 of this Act.

Section 16. On and according to the basis hereafter set forth will the annual income be measured and ascertained of those rents which are not payable in money, but in kind (corn, beans, &c.).

Section 17. With regard to that kind of income and rent which consists of a certain part of the produce that every year arises from the ground, the contract will in this case be concluded by the Court or official Commission on the evidence of experts, who will make a valuation to ascertain the yearly produce of the ground in question (*vide* section 26).

Section 18. In all cases where the yearly produce is ascertained by Commissions or experts, and the purchase is between such parties as are qualified to act independently in settling conditions of purchase (of full age, &c.), those who hold and cultivate the properties can themselves privately make their offer to the landlord with respect to the price or purchase-money; and if such offer be not accepted, then one or other of the

parties shall pay the costs of the Commission. These costs shall abide the event of the Commission's decision on the sufficiency or insufficiency of the price offered, *i.e.*, the losing party will have to pay the costs.

Section 19. In case such properties should, in addition to the aforesaid burden (right of purchase) be further encumbered with private or Crown debts (registered), then the purchase-money shall be paid to the local authorities, who, in accordance with the usual administration of justice, will, after satisfying the incumbrancers, pay the rest of the purchase-money to the landlord, *i.e.*, the owner of the equity of redemption.

Section 20. All the provisions of sections 11 and 19 of this Act with regard to "Gospodarske" lands shall apply also to "settled" Tschiflik land.

Section 21. The average yearly income (*vide* section 9 of this Act) will be calculated according to the evidence of the one and the other of the two interested parties in respect of such properties as to which no dispute arises. Those parties who have not yet brought their claims before the Commission, which, by the Royal Ukas of the 22nd March, 1879, and in pursuance of the Act of the 19th January of the same year, was sent into the new enfranchised territories, shall send in their claims to the official county Commissioners, which, in pursuance of that Act, were established. These claims must be sent in within the period of one year, to be computed from the day on which the Commissions shall begin their work. If the parties interested fail to do this within the appointed period then the evidence of other parties will be considered, and such evidence will be valid.

Section 22. The official county Commissions shall be constituted by Royal Ukas, and shall be composed of a president and two members.

Section 23. The duty of the county Commissions will be: the reception of the notices and claims in respect of the properties which have not already been brought before the Commissions (section 21); further to define and fix, according to the evidence adduced by both parties, the average annual income; further to ascertain and determine the compensation to the landlords, and also the purchase-money of those properties which are hereby conferred on the peasants, and also to prescribe the term for payment of the purchase-money. All the Commission's decisions in this respect shall be valid in law, and from such decisions there shall be no appeal.

Section 24. When the claims of the two parties (landlords and tenants) are adverse, *e.g.*, when those who cultivated the land in question allege that the same is subject to the payment of one-ninth only of the annual produce, and the proprietors, on the other hand, allege that the property is their own (*i.e.*, "Tschiflik-sajbija"), and that it is subject to the payment by the tenants of one-third of the annual produce, &c., then the Commission shall endeavour to bring about a compromise between the parties, and in this manner settle every dispute in respect of the right of property to such land. If the Commission fail to attain this, it shall refer the parties to the competent county Tribunal, that the Court may settle the disputes concerning such rights (title).

Section 25. In case the parties shall, with reference to the income of the property, bring forward any differences which do not contain any judicial question (question of law), or only such as the Court shall already have disposed of (see section 24), and in case the Commission shall not succeed in arranging such differences, it shall summon both parties, and require that each party shall choose two persons not interested in the matter in hand as arbitrators or assessors. These four arbitrators shall enter the Commission as members, and be entitled to vote in the determination of the dispute and the fixing of the average price in like manner as the other members. Every member of a Commission, not being an officer of the State, must, at the request of either party, and in accordance with section 259 of the Civil Administration Act, take an oath of office.

Section 26. The amount of the average annual rent of all properties in respect of which there are no disputes shall be ascertained by the Commission, and the rent, where payable in cash, shall be multiplied by 7, where payable in kind by 8. The result arrived at by this multiplication by 7 shall be the compensation to be paid by the enfranchised tenants to those who have been entitled to receive from the enfranchised properties one-ninth, one-third, or other rent or benefit in money.

In case those who, in accordance with this Act, are entitled to receive compensation in kind should be desirous of receiving the same in money, then the average price of the rents in kind (reckoned for the eight years immediately preceding the commencement of the Servian Government in the new enfranchised territories) shall be multiplied by 7, and the result of such multiplication shall represent the amount of compensation to be payable in money.

The ascertained compensations must be paid within three months after the Decree pronouncing the Commission's decision.

Section 27. Whoever shall not be able to pay the decreed compensation, either in

money or in kind, within the aforesaid term (section 26), then the Commission shall, as a Court, determine that such compensations shall be paid by yearly instalments extending over a period not exceeding five years, reckoned from the date of the Commission's aforesaid decision. The enfranchised tenants shall be liable meanwhile to legal interest according to section 602 of the Civil Law, such interest to be paid either in money or in kind, and to run from the expiration of the term (three months) mentioned in section 26 of this Act.

The rateable payments shall be fixed by the Commissions (as a Court) in accordance with the position as to means (*i.e.*, property) of the respective villages and persons.

Section 28. If the Tschiflik owners ("Tschiflik-sajbijas") should be desirous of retaining the "settled" properties, they shall have the option of doing so on surrendering from the same to each poll-tax payer on the Tschiflik in addition to his house and curtilage 5 morgens (*vide* section 7). For the land thus surrendered the Tschiflik owners shall be compensated as follows :—

	Dinars.
For ground, 1st quality, per morgen	20
„ 2nd „ „	10
„ 3rd „ „	6

The payment of the aforesaid compensation must be made within the time prescribed by section 27 of this Act.

Section 29. Those who shall be awarded a compensation under this Act shall in respect thereof have a mortgage-charge on the properties over which they have had rights, and which under this Act shall become the property of those who have held and cultivated the land thereof, which mortgage-charge shall exist till the whole of the compensation shall have been paid.

Section 30. The sums of money which are to be paid as compensation for aforesaid properties under the award of the Commissions will be collected by Government officials, and it will be their duty to pay the same over to the landlords entitled thereto.

The Municipality will, on the contrary, have charge of the compensation in kind, and the Government officials shall only maintain an inspection thereof and enforce the regular payment of such compensation in kind, together with the lawful interest, and that such payment be made in the presence of them, said Government officials.

Section 31. In case both parties shall fail to make their claims within the period prescribed by section 21 of this Act, then the Commission will decide in accordance with the depositions or evidence of other (third) persons, and dispose of the matter in accordance with this Act. The compensations thus awarded shall be collected by the Government, and shall remain in the Public Treasury as a cash deposit until the persons entitled (the landlords) shall claim the same.

This claim must be made within five years from the commencement of this Act, and if the person entitled fail to claim such deposit within the prescribed period, it shall be forfeited to the Public Treasury.

Section 32. Where disputes arise as to property or income to which this Act applies, and which disputes the Commission shall be unable to decide under the 24th section of this Act, viz., disputes by those who at present do not hold possession of the disputed property, but who prove their title thereto, and also by those who claim certain benefits from such properties, but whose claims are disputed by those who have hitherto cultivated such property, such complainants shall prefer their claims and complaints to the county Tribunal within two years after the lapse of the term prescribed in section 21 of this Act, with respect to notices of claims to the county Commissions.

After the lapse of such term such claims cannot be received. Those in possession of the lands shall be deemed the owners thereof without paying any compensation; but, on the contrary, such unclaimed properties as shall be under judicial administration, and which are, or may be, farmed out, will devolve on the State.

Section 33. Until the expiration of the term which, in section 21 of this Act, is prescribed for claims before the county Commissions, the county Tribunals will have no jurisdiction to receive complaints except those remitted to them by the Commissions under section 24 of this Act.

Section 34. Every landlord and Tschiflik proprietor, who, in consequence of the late Servo-Turkish war, abandoned the benefit he could have enjoyed in respect of "Gospodarske," or Tschiflik properties, may receive the same on giving notice of his claim and proving his title to the land and such other properties as remain undestroyed after the war. But he will not be entitled to mesne (*i.e.*, intermediate) profits.

Section 35. In adjudicating disputes under this Act the Courts shall act in accordance with the rules of judicial administration hitherto existing in the new enfranchised territories,

and where such rules shall be inadequate, then the rules of the Act of the 20th February, 1865, concerning judicial procedure in civil actions, will come to application.

Section 36. After the Court shall have decided the disputes relating to the title to the land produce, it shall remit the case back to the Commission to define and ascertain the price or purchase-money. But if the Commission shall in the meanwhile have completed its work, then the Court itself shall settle the question of compensation on the sale (or surrender), according to the rules of this present law.

Section 37. The matters referred to in the second paragraph of Article XXXIX of the Berlin Treaty of the 13th July, 1878, are excluded from the contemplation of this law. These matters remain to be dealt with by the Servian-Turkish Commission.

Section 38. Excepted from the provisions of this Act is the income of the forests and woodlands, pasture grounds (commons), &c., inasmuch as, according to Turkish law, the landlords ("Gospodars and Tschiflik-sajbija") could not obtain "tapiji" (title-deeds) for the local woodlands and pasture grounds, or for the woods distant from the village; but every village and Tschiflik was allowed to have so much woodland and pasture ground only as was necessary for the local cattle. Accordingly, neither a landlord nor a Tschiflik proprietor could with justice enjoy a personal or separate income from such woods or pastures.

Section 39. And further, the provisions of this law do not extend to the non-settled Tschiflik lands nor to the real properties in the new enfranchised (annexed) territories, over which the landlord has absolute power of disposition (*vide* section 1 of the Act of the 31st December, 1878, as to criminal procedure in the newly-incorporated territories, Collection No. 34, p. 71).

Section 40. In regard to affairs previous to the time of the commencement of the Servian Government in the new enfranchised territories, the previously established relations with regard to private rights in these territories in the case of one person becoming entitled to the land and another to the buildings, these relations will be regulated according to section 1 of the said Act of the 31st December, 1878 (Collection No. 34, p. 71), and the Turkish laws previously prevailing in such territories, and in case such laws should be insufficient, then our civil law shall apply.

Section 41. Members of the county Commissions, and experts who act in the execution of this Act, shall each be entitled to 6 dinars per day (when on duty), and in addition thereto officials shall receive their travelling expenses in accordance with existing regulations as to State officials. This sum and travelling expenses (except in the cases mentioned in section 18, where one or other of the parties themselves is liable) shall be paid by the proper authority of the district in which the property is situate, in respect of which the compensation is adjudged. In case any incompleteness should be found in the provisions of this Act is this immediately to supply, in order that all doubt may be removed.

Section 42. Fuller rules for the execution of this Act shall be prescribed by the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance.

Section 43. This Act shall come into force on the 13th April, 1880.

Nisch, January 24, 1880.

The Minister of Justice,
(Signed) S. VELJKOVIĆ.

The Minister of Finance,
(Signed) ELIAS MARGETIĆ.

No. 80.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 17.)
Belgrade, March 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of the 29th ultimo, by which I forwarded to your Lordship Mr. Vice-Consul Baker's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a translation of the Agrarian Bill, I beg further to state, for your Lordship's information, that I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to ascertain the opinion of the other Representatives at Belgrade on the question.

I think I am justified in saying that, on the whole, the Bill is considered fairly equitable, the only clause in it open to serious criticism being the one granting the purchaser a term of five years during which to discharge his debt.

In my despatch No. 11 of the 15th ultimo I ventured to draw your Lordship's atte

tion to some of the objections this stipulation was open to. But, in addition to these defects, the section contains a more radical mistake, in that it vitiates the compensation clause in case of sale.

Seven or eight years' purchase represent (in this country, where the rate of legal interest is 12 per cent.) 96 and 84 per cent. respectively, if paid down in one sum; but the payment of the same indemnity spread over five years, the interest on the balance of debt being meanwhile only 6 per cent., materially diminishes the original compensation awarded to the vendor.

Under the above-mentioned circumstances, I have heard a very general regret expressed that the Servian Government did not, in the first instance, raise a loan on the lands offered for sale, and by this means settle the claims of the Turkish proprietors once and for all, leaving it to the peasant purchaser by his industry to pay off the mortgage, and thus acquire absolute right to the soil.

This course was, in the main, the one adopted by Roumania in abolishing feudal tenure, and in all probability will be the only one open to Austria in dealing with the same difficult question in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 81.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 29, 1880.*

THE conflict spoken of by the newspapers as having taken place on the Lim between the Austrian detachment and the Turks appears to have been an affair of no sort of importance.

The Austrians were fired upon by what seems to have been a party of brigands, of whom they captured four, none of their own people being either killed or wounded.

The relations between the Austrian and Turkish regular forces are represented to me as being quite satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 82.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 108. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 29, 1880.*

CAPTAIN SWAINE, in his letter to Sir H. Layard of the 25th ultimo, of which a copy has been sent to me by your Lordship, reported Salih Pasha to have stated that, if the Berana district were to be made over to Montenegro instead of Gusinjé-Plava, the transfer could be made in five minutes.

I am convinced that it would be found quite impossible to obtain the necessary consent of the Austrian Government to this change in the Treaty frontier.

Before the Congress of Berlin Count Andrassy frequently expressed his determination, which I reported to your Lordship, never to accept a frontier bringing the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro nearer together; and Baron Haymerle, in speaking of the difficulties about Gusinjé, has likewise remarked to me that, while he had no objection to an equivalent for it being found on the Podgoritza side, he would not agree to any being looked for towards the *enclave*.

Although the Austrian Government were always averse to the annexation of any portion of Albanian territory to Montenegro, which they suspected Russia of advocating for the very purpose of keeping the two countries in hot water, since the Treaty was signed they have strongly insisted upon the necessity of adhering to its provisions as closely as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 83.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 114?. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 2, 1880.*

LORD DUFFERIN has remarked upon the general apathy shown at St. Petersburgh upon the repeated attempts upon the life of the Czar.

Count Kalnocki, the Austrian-Hungarian Ambassador, reports to his Government in precisely the same sense, though he goes, perhaps, a trifle further, for he states that whenever the subject is mentioned to a Russian, the invariable answer is a comment upon the obstinacy of the Emperor in refusing to sanction even the most moderate reforms which everyone knows to be called for.

The impression which Count Kalnocki's Reports are calculated to give is not only that there is in Russia a very general belief that the present system of Government, with its known abuses and corruption, cannot be much longer maintained, but that much less horror at the atrocious proceedings of the Nihilists is felt at St. Petersburgh than in foreign countries, and that the mass of the public who are unconnected with that body would see without dissatisfaction the success of any plot or conspiracy that would bring about a change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 4, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's telegram instructing me to make known to the Austrian Government the proposal for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

I communicated the substance of it to Baron Calice, who said that he would at once submit it to Baron Haymerle, who, he did not doubt, would agree to the proposal without difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 85.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 5, 1880.*

THE Austrian Government have received the Circular mentioned in Mr. White's despatch No 41, by which the Roumanian Government invite the Powers to take steps for the final settlement of the Dobrudscha frontier, and for putting them into possession of Arab-Tabia according to the decision of the Commission.

The communication appears to be favourably received by Baron Haymerle, but he has not yet made up his mind as to what may be the best mode of proceeding in order to bring this question to a conclusion.

As the despatch will almost immediately be in your Lordship's hands I need not recapitulate its contents, but it very fairly sets forth the inconveniences to which the Roumanian Government are exposed by a portion of their territory being left without a fixed frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 86.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 120.)
Vienna, March 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE not thought it advisable to inform the Austrian Government of Mr. Green's opinion, that the Catholics to the east of the Lake of Scutari would resist annexation to Montenegro as a compensation for Gusinjé.

The resistance in the latter district is likely to be more difficult to overcome than it would be in the other, and I have not wished to influence the Austrian Government in opposition to Count Corti's compromise, especially as I find a disposition here to look favourably on the suggestion that the Prince of Montenegro should answer the last Turkish offer by making a counter proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 87.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 103.)
Berlin, March 4, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of last night, I called on the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government, as he had already been informed by the German Ambassador in London, felt that there were many objections to the line of frontier proposed in December last by the French Government to be recommended by the Powers for the acceptance of the Turkish and Greek Governments, and having communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram to M. de Radowitz, I begged that he would submit to the Prince Chancellor, for his Highness' consideration, the following proposal Her Majesty's Government had agreed upon with the French Government.

The Turkish and Greek Governments, I said, having failed to come to the agreement contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government were willing, in concert with the other Powers, to offer their mediation in order to facilitate negotiations for the purpose of determining the precise frontiers which the Powers should recommend, and to propose the following arrangement:—

"A boundary Commission, composed of Commissioners nominated by the Signatory Powers, shall study and determine on the spot the line best suited to form a new frontier between Turkey and Greece. They shall take for basis of their deliberations Protocol No. 13 of the Treaty of Berlin, and without being bound by the general geographical indications given therein, they shall loyally act in the spirit and conform themselves to the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries at that sitting of the Congress. They shall decide by a majority of votes upon the precise frontier best fitted to carry that policy into effect, and Her Majesty's Government will join in recommending the disputant Powers the frontier which the Commission shall in this manner determine."

M. de Radowitz said that he would submit the communication I had been instructed to make by your Lordship to Prince Bismarck, and would let me know his Highness' answer as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 88.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 111.)
Berlin, March 6, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE WESDEHLEN left Berlin last night for Bucharest for the purpose of presenting his credentials as German Minister to the Prince of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 89.

Sir S. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 32.)
Brussels, March 7, 1880.

My Lord,

ON Thursday, the 4th instant, M. Callimaki Cattargi, Envoy Extraordinary from the Prince of Roumania, was received by the King at an official audience, on which occasion he delivered to His Majesty a letter from His Royal Highness, notifying that Roumania has become a sovereign and independent Power.

His Excellency delivered to the King at the same time the insignia of the Order of the Star of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 90.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, March 7, 1880.

I READ to-day to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant, relative to the agreement Her Majesty's Government and the French Government have come to in regard to appointment of a Commission to study on the spot a new frontier which could be recommended to disputant Powers.

His Excellency said that two things struck him in this communication, one as regards procedure, the other as regards basis of the matter.

With reference to the former, he observed that the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin were not identical with the mediating Powers mentioned in the XXIVth Article of the Treaty: the former included Turkey.

As regards the second, he observed, there was danger that if interpretation of Protocol 13 is left to the Commissioners they might so modify it as to alter entirely basis, that is, the two valleys which Greece looks upon as her title-deed.

He said that the basis of Protocol 13, though it might be interpreted variously, could not be restricted or modified.

Italian Minister has shown a telegram to Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs couched in the same terms as that of your Lordship's to me, in which Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses his full adhesion.

No other Representative has made communication to this Government on the subject.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 91.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 8.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, March 7, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38, Greek Minister at Constantinople has been instructed by his Government to inform Porte in answer to line of frontier proposed—

1. That as the extremities of the line are outside the points mentioned in Protocol 13, Greece cannot accept them as a basis for discussion of an intermediate line.

2. As the extremities of the line proposed by Turkey were so far from that proposed by Greece, a continuation of negotiations could not lead to agreement between the two Powers.

3. That although direct negotiations have not resulted in an agreement, they have at least proved the divergence of the views of the two Powers, the case provided for by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Consequently, Greek Government adopts the view expressed some weeks ago by her Plenipotentiaries that further direct negotiation is useless.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 92.

Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, March* 7, 1880.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL returned from Hermanli last night. He spoke very seriously to Aleko on the danger of driving the Turks of Kirjali to despair. Aleko acknowledged that injustice had been done, and promised to make reparation; he was to have left for Haskeui this morning to open inquiry. He promised to cause officers commanding the force which burnt villages to be tried by Court-martial; and to give indemnity to the sufferers. He also promised to do everything in his power to satisfy the disaffected population.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 93.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 7*, 1880.

COUNT KÁROLYI will be instructed to-day to convey to your Lordship the acceptance by this Government of your Lordship's proposal about the Greek frontier.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 8, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 8, 1880, 11 A.M.

I HAVE communicated verbally to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs substance of your telegrams Nos. 53 and 54 upon the Commission for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question. Do you wish me to do so in a note?

No. 95.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 16th ultimo, and I have to state to you, in reply, that I approve the note which you addressed to M. Natchovits, copy of which is inclosed therein, on the subject of the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans in the district of Pravadi and Silistria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 96.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 19, 1880.

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Lordship this day that, on my mentioning to M. Natchovitz that, according to information received from Salonica, armed bands were crossing from Kustendil into Macedonia, his Excellency replied that he would telegraph to the Governor of that place to report, but he believed that the armed bands would prove to be merely brigands of a similar character to those coming from the Turkish side of the frontier, with reference to whom the Bulgarian Government has recently made representations to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 97.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 16th instant, inclosing copy of a note which I addressed on the 13th to M. Natchovitz, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have learned from his Excellency that an inquiry into the alleged cases of ill-treatment of Mussulmans in the districts of Pravadi and Silistria had been instituted some time ago by the Prince's orders, and that the result of it had been to prove that, in the case of Pravadi, the facts had been much exaggerated, but that at Silistria, where the Chief of Police had been undoubtedly guilty of gross oppression, he had been dismissed, and brought under arrest to Sophia, where he is now awaiting judgment.

I confess that I should have been rather inclined to doubt the exactitude of the report of such a display of energy on the part of the Bulgarian authorities had I not received confirmation of it from other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 98.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the "Bulgarski Glas" on the subject of the vakouf property in Bulgaria. I have been informed on good authority that this article is inspired, if not actually written, by the Bulgarian Agent in Constantinople.

Count Khevenhüller informed me the other day confidentially that he had learned from the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople that M. Zancov has been doing his best to induce the Porte to recall the Commission, the arrival of which I reported in my No. 17 of the 27th ultimo, and that it was not impossible that he might succeed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas."

LES VACOUFS.—Notre devoir de publiciste nous oblige à traiter toutes les questions qui sont sur le tapis. En ce moment pour la Bulgarie il n'y a rien de plus important que la question des vacoufs et des biens de l'Etat, que le Gouvernement Turc vient de poser.

Nous savons bien que le Traité de Berlin donne au Gouvernement Turc le droit de disposer des vacoufs situés en Bulgarie à sa guise, mais il est très-probable que la moitié des membres du Congrès de Berlin entendait pour la première fois le mot de vacouf, et que l'autre moitié n'était pas beaucoup plus forte sur cette matière. Il en est de même pour les biens de l'Etat.

Les vacoufs sont le plus souvent des propriétés léguées par des âmes pieuses pour l'entretien d'institutions de bienfaisance. Ainsi, par exemple, l'école Thérésianum à Vienne est un vacouf avec toutes les propriétés qu'elle possède et qui servent à son entretien. Supposons maintenant qu'un jour un Kara-Moustapha, plus heureux que le premier, s'empare de la Croatie, de la Hongrie, et de la Basse-Autriche, et qu'il réduise les Habsbourgs à ne posséder que la Bohême, la Haute-Autriche et le Tirol, nous demandons ce que deviendra le Thérésianum et ses propriétés?

Est-ce que le Gouvernement Autrichien aura le droit de posséder dans la Nouvelle-Turquie cette école, ou de la vendre, par exemple, à quelque boulanger pour en faire un dépôt de grains? Mais nous pensons que Mahomet VIII—en supposant que le maître de Kara-Moustapha s'appelle aussi Mahomet—pourra très-bien objecter, que comme Vienne et ses environs n'auront pas été réduits en désert, que cette contrée continuera à avoir des habitants; que ces habitants désireront avoir des écoles, et que comme lui aussi aime à

avoir des sujets instruits plutôt que des brutes, il est préférable que le Thérésianum reste une école et que les boulangers fassent leurs dépôts ailleurs. Selon nous, Mahomet aura d'autant plus le droit de tenir ce langage, que cette école n'a pas été crée par la grande Impératrice dans l'intérêt des personnes qui représentent le Gouvernement, mais bien dans l'intérêt de la population.

Le cas est absolument le même ici, en Bulgarie. Non pas tel ou tel Sultan, mais des âmes pieuses ont légué qui, un champ, qui, une boutique pour l'entretien soit des fontaines publiques, soit des mosquées, des écoles ou des hôpitaux non pas de Constantinople ou de la Mecque, mais de telle ou telle ville qui fait partie aujourd'hui de le Principauté Bulgare. A ces fontaines se désaltérait tout le monde, indistinctement Musulmans, Chrétiens, ou idolâtres. Le donateur n'avait jamais pensé en écarter qui que fût. L'hôpital aussi était fondé pour tous les indigents malades sans distinction de nationalité ou de religion.

Mais ces villes et ces villages continuent toujours d'exister, quoique leur maître ne soit plus le Sultan; et les habitants sont toujours les mêmes.—Bulgares, Turcs, Bohémiens, &c. De quel droit les privera-t-on des fontaines, des hôpitaux, des mosquées que les âmes pieuses leur ont léguées? de quel droit et en vertu de quelle loi enfreindra-t-on les dernières volontés des donateurs?

Nous ne connaissons pas la manière de voir sur cette question des personnes qui ont aujourd'hui le pouvoir entre leurs mains, mais nous pouvons leur affirmer que le public est de l'avis que nous venons d'exprimer. Nous avons causé même avec des Musulmans et nous nous sommes assuré qu'ils partagent notre manière de voir d'une façon très-énergique. La question des vacoufs est pour eux une question à réserver; comme en Bulgarie l'entretien des écoles, des églises, et des mosquées est confié aux communes, comme le Gouvernement ne donne à ces institutions aucun secours matériel, l'avenir des écoles Turques ainsi que celui de leurs mosquées réside dans la manière dont la question des vacoufs sera résolue. Les Musulmans auront ou n'auront pas d'écoles et de mosquées selon que la Porte parviendra ou ne parviendra pas à les dépouiller des biens vacoufs.

Le Gouvernement Bulgare a manifesté plus d'une fois sa volonté de considérer les Musulmans de la Principauté comme citoyens de notre patrie, jouissant des mêmes droits et des mêmes devoirs que tous les autres sujets de Son Altesse le Prince. Sans parler des Commissions pour les propriétés Musulmanes qui furent créées dans toute la Principauté aussitôt après l'arrivée de Son Altesse, sans parler, non plus, des facilités qui furent accordées aux Musulmans par Rapport au recrutement, nous savons de source certaine qu'aucune communauté Turque qui a voulu ouvrir une école et qui a demandé des secours au Gouvernement n'a essuyé un refus. Pourquoi alors le Gouvernement ne prend-il pas la défense des intérêts de ses sujets Musulmans devant les Grandes Puissances? pourquoi n'entreprend-il pas de prouver à ces Puissances, qui s'intéressent tellement au sort des Musulmans de Bulgarie, que les vacoufs doivent rester la propriété des communes en Bulgarie et aucunement celle du Gouvernement Turc? Nous sommes persuadés, que même les membres du Congrès de Berlin, lorsqu'ils auront appris l'état des choses en Bulgarie par rapport aux vacoufs, se refuseront à laisser dépouiller les communes Musulmanes des propriétés qu'elles possèdent légalement.

Dans un prochain article nous parlerons des biens de l'Etat réclamés par le Gouvernement de la Porte.

No. 99.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(Private.)
Belgrave Square, March 8, 1880.

Dear Lord Salisbury,

SIR HENRY ELLIOT having communicated to Baron Haymerle the proposals agreed upon between England and France respecting the Greek-Turkish delimitation, I am instructed to inform you that we adhere to them with pleasure, and look forward to further communications about the details of the execution.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 103.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 9, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed, confidentially, that the Council of Ministers has decided unanimously to reject proposal of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the appointment of a Commission for the settlement of the Greek frontier question.

No. 101.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9, 1·35 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 9, 1880, 11·45 A.M.*

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has been informed by his Government that they adhere entirely to the proposition of the French and British Governments in regard to the appointment of a Commission to settle the Turco-Greek frontier question. He is not instructed to make a communication to the Greek Government on the subject.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 102.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880, 2·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 102.

Yes; it should be communicated in writing.

No. 103.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 56. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880, 5 P.M.*

COUNT KÁROLYI informed me quite confidentially that the French Government, while ostensibly accepting our proposal about Greek frontier, suggested to Austria that they should refuse it. I have no doubt Fournier is doing the same thing at Constantinople.

No. 104.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 57. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880.*

YOU should point out to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the assent of the Turkish Government to our proposition at this stage is not required. If they do not wish to take part in the Commission, it will not be necessary for them to do so. It may be confined to the six Powers. All that the Turkish Government will be asked to do is to consent to the Commission surveying the country, and to afford them adequate protection. The question of consenting or otherwise to the Report on which the Commission may agree will not arise till later, when the mediating Powers make their recommendation. If they now hastily refuse the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, they will only compel us to adhere at once to the line of M. Waddington; and as that line has been accepted by the other four Powers, the question of accepting or refusing proposals of the mediating Powers will be forced on them at once.

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9, 4·20 P.M.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 9, 1880, 2·30 P.M.*

I HAVE not yet received official answer to proposal of Her Majesty's Government respecting Greek frontier question, but have reason to believe it will be accepted by the Russian Government.

No. 106.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 160.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880.*

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 102 of the 8th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that you should communicate to the Porte in writing the substance of my telegraphic instructions of the 3rd instant relative to the proposed Commission for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 107.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 163. Secret.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE been informed, quite confidentially, by Count Károlyi, that, while ostensibly accepting the Commission proposed by Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of the Greek frontier, the French Government have suggested to Austria that she should refuse it. In all probability similar advice is being offered to the Porte by the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 108.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 164. Secret.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 103 of this day, stating that you had reason for believing that the proposal made by Her Majesty's Government for the appointment of a Commission to examine the question of the Greek frontier would be rejected by the Porte.

Your Excellency should point out to Savas Pasha that the assent of the Turkish Government is not required at this stage to the arrangement which has been suggested by Her Majesty's Government. If the Porte is not disposed to take part in the Commission, it will not be necessary that it should do so, in which case the Commission will be confined to the other Six Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin. The Turkish Government will then be merely asked to give its assent to the survey of the country by the Commissioners, and to afford them such protection as may be required for the performance of their duties.

The question of giving its assent or otherwise to the Report which may be agreed upon by the Commission will not arise until such time as when the mediating Powers make their recommendation to Turkey and Greece.

Should the present proposal of Her Majesty's Government be hastily refused by the Porte, we should find ourselves compelled to adhere at once to the line of frontier proposed by M. Waddington, and as that line has been accepted by Austria, Germany,

Italy, and Russia, Turkey would be forced immediately to decide for herself the question of accepting or refusing the proposals of the mediating Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 109.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 19.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 30 and 34 of the 3rd and 4th instant, in which you call attention to the serious state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia, and suggest that in the interests of the province itself and of the several races who inhabit it, it would be best to place the administration and the application of the Organic Statute in the hands of the European Commission for a year; the Governor-General to be suspended from his functions, which should be exercised for the time being by the Commission. You consider that to support the Commission it would be sufficient to place 10,000 Ottoman troops on the frontier ready to enter the province in case of need, and to have a garrison at Philippopoli, principally composed of native Turkish and Greek militiamen, previously enrolled.

I have informed you, in reply, that if a Government existed at this moment at Constantinople well-disposed towards Great Britain and the policy which Her Majesty's Government advocate, intervention by means of Ottoman troops in Eastern Roumelia would be possible, and might be resorted to with advantage in cases of violation by the Governor-General of the provisions of the Constitution or of the Treaty of Berlin. In that event, however, it would probably be wiser not to attempt formally to institute an International Government, a species of administration which is rarely successful. A preferable alternative would be to leave the administration nominally in the hands of the Turkish authorities while taking measures for adequate supervision of their proceedings.

This course, however, is at present impracticable, as the Government at Constantinople is not well-disposed, and the Sultan has not at his disposal a force sufficient for the purpose. You must, therefore, for the moment, continue to pursue the line you have hitherto followed, giving to Aleko Pasha the best advice in your power, and taking every opportunity to bring into public notice, and so subject to the check of public opinion, the oppression exercised by the Bulgarians towards their Greek and Mussulman fellow-countrymen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 110.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 18. Political.) *Canea, Crete, February 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE General Assembly was engaged during the whole of the week ended yesterday in regulating the expenses of such Departments of the public service as had not yet received its attention. A tendency was apparent to reduce the salaries of the civil employés, which is not calculated to increase their efficiency.

Happily, a more liberal spirit prevailed in apportioning the salaries of the new judicial authorities. It was decided that the President of the Court of Appeal should receive 460*l.* a-year, but at the instance of the Vali the Assembly voted his Excellency a credit of an equal amount, destined to double the new President's salary in case an eminent lawyer is induced to accept the post. Similarly, the salary of the new Procureur-Général has been fixed at 280*l.* a-year, but to him also an additional 180*l.* will be granted in case his services are considered sufficiently deserving. The salaries of the Presidents of the five Courts of First Instance have been raised from 130*l.* to 180*l.* a-year, and a slight augmentation is made in the pay of the elected Judges: the number of "juges de paix" who hold Courts in the rural districts has been increased from twenty-three to thirty.

The gendarmerie next came under the consideration of the Assembly. It was decided to reduce the corps from its present number of about 2,000 to 1,760. This reduction effects a saving which allows of the salaries of the officers and men being

slightly raised, the Colonel receiving 194*l.* a-year, the Majors 100*l.*, while the men are to be paid 25*s.* instead of 23*s.* a-month. The sum is little enough for them to find themselves in food, and it will be necessary also to provide them with uniforms capable of standing the wear and tear of their rough life, those recently served out being of too flimsy a material. The men are now from two to four months in arrears of pay, and under such circumstances it is not to be wondered at that they render lukewarm service, and that desertions are frequent.

The Assembly also voted the suppression of the Cretan official journal, entailing, as it does, a loss of about 300*l.* The motive which impelled it to this step was rather a dislike to the dissemination by its means of news inspired by Government authority. Henceforth a sheet will be issued as occasion requires for the publication of official announcements, and the field of journalism will be left open to private enterprise. A start has already been made in this direction by the publication at Candia of a weekly newspaper in Greek, which is conducted with great moderation and good sense, and the example is sure to be followed here.

In to-day's sitting (for the Assembly gives itself no holiday on Sunday), a vote was taken to raise a loan of £T. 20,000 at a maximum rate of 12 per cent. per annum for the immediate necessities of the island. The Budget of the current year ending on the 13th proximo shows a deficit of £17,000, which sum is due to the gendarmes and civil employés, and, as little revenue will be forthcoming till next July, it is absolutely necessary to find means for current expenses. Hopes are entertained that the moderate sum demanded will be obtained from some capitalist at Constantinople, the tithes of next year's olive crop being offered as security. It is significant that an attempt to raise the money on the spot was unsuccessful, want of confidence, not a want of means, being the cause of failure. The prospects of the next olive crop are so unusually good, that it is generally expected that the estimate made of 90,000*l.* as the revenue of the ensuing year will be considerably exceeded, and that thus no difficulty will be found in paying off the projected loan by November or December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 111.

Count Münster to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

German Embassy, 9, Carlton House Terrace, S.W., March 9, 1880.

My dear Lord Salisbury,

I HAVE received orders from Prince Bismarck to inform you that the German Government accepts your proposition as to the Boundary Commission.

I would have told you this verbally, but I am always afraid that too many visitors might be too much for you.

Whenever you wish to see me do let me know.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MÜNSTER.

No. 112.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 9, 1880.*

RUSSIAN Government will send a Delegate to Commission suggested by England, if other Powers adhere to the proposal. The Delegate will be instructed to consent to any advantage which Europe may judge possible to grant to Greece.

Text of note by messenger.

No. 113.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 9, 1880.*

I HAVE been told very confidentially that French Ambassador has incited the Porte to reject proposal of Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of the Greek frontier question. Draft of reply of the Porte to your communication has been submitted to him for his approval, if it has not been prepared at his suggestion. He speaks very highly of it. He denounced your proposal to one of my colleagues as a trick on the part of England to oust France from the leading position which she had obtained in the Greek question, and the Commission as a farce, as it would require several regiments to secure its safety. I understand this is one of the arguments used by the Porte against it. If this is mentioned at Paris, do not quote me as your authority.

No. 114.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 9, 1880.*

COUNT CORTI received this morning the terms of the counter-proposal of the Prince of Montenegro to the exchange offered by the Porte, which he rejects, as was anticipated. Count Corti, who considers them moderate and acceptable, the demand for a pecuniary indemnity having been dropped, has submitted them to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who holds out hopes that they will be accepted by the Sultan, who is now exceedingly anxious that this question should be settled as soon as possible. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs says that if they are accepted the evacuation of the ceded territory by the Turkish troops and authorities will take place immediately after the signature of a Protocol here between him and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires, and the acceptance of the arrangement by the Powers, to whom it will be communicated.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 115.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 106. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1880, 2·10 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 104, relating to Fournier's proceedings in the Greek question, crossed your No. 56, which fully confirms information which has reached me from trustworthy sources. I am told, but I give the information under reserve, that the Sultan has been persuaded to bring about an alliance between Russia, France, and Turkey, to counterbalance the one supposed to exist between England, Austria, and Germany, but that Fournier, who has spoken on the subject, has not yet committed himself. Sawas Pasha has warned me that such an alliance was not impossible.

No. 116.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 10, 1880.*

SIMMONS, returned from inquiry into distress in neighbouring districts, reports that Greek shopkeepers complained everywhere of being ruined in consequence of Circular; the Bulgarian Mayor of one village told him they would be excommunicated if they dealt with Greeks; in another village Bulgarians obtained dispensation in favour of a Greek innkeeper, who had Bulgarian friends in village, for twelve days previously. Bulgarians were arrested and fined for frequenting the inn. A Greek apple seller had just been turned out of a village, and another rescued by a friendly Bulgarian.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 117.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10, 3:30 P.M.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 10, 1880, 9 A.M.*

SIMMONS reports great distress in eight neighbouring Turkish villages to which Committee had previously sent slight relief. Women and children in rags, all eating only weeds made into cakes with a little flour; he saw more than forty new graves in village, in which Governor-General's Secretary denied cases of death by starvation. This denial was sent to London through Reuter. Shall send help out of 200*l.* provided by Ambassador.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 118.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 10, 1880.*

BULGARIAN who petitioned against forced contributions was for that offence imprisoned two days at Hadji Eltes, five days at Haskeui, and then liberated on bail on insistance of Procureur-Général, but not allowed to leave the town; he has so escaped and is here seeking redress and protection. Another Bulgarian deputation has come from same district to complain of those contributions, and to claim money taken from villagers, who were imprisoned twenty-four hours and beaten with sticks and kicked until they paid.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 119.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1880, 4 P.M.*

FRANCE, Italy, Austria, and Germany have agreed to English proposal on Greek frontier, and I understand Russia is most likely to do so.

No. 120.

Memorandum by Sir J. Pauncefote respecting the Greek Frontier.

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 104, I think it right to mention that Musurus Pasha strongly urged in conversation with me on the last occasion the argument that the Commission proposed might be influenced and menaced by popular manifestations and risings, and he begged me to add this to his previous arguments, but I refrained from troubling you with any further remarks from him, as he guarded himself by saying that they were all unofficial.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Foreign Office, March 10, 1880.

No. 121.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 166.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1880.*

Sir,

THE Reports which have been received from Her Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Paris, Rome, and Vienna, state that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Commission to study the question of the Greek frontier has been accepted at those places, and there is good reason to expect that Russia will adopt the same view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 122.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 10, 1880.*

M. DE FREYCINET told me this afternoon, that he had reason to believe that the consent of the five other Great Powers to the English proposal to refer the Greek Frontier question to a Commission was on the point of being officially established.

The reception which the proposal would meet with from the two contending parties, Turkey and Greece, did not seem to be quite so clear, but M. de Freycinet did not think that too much weight should be given to any objections they might make.

His Excellency went on to say that the opinion of the French Government was, that neither Turkey nor Greece ought to be represented in the Commission. The French Government looked upon the Commission in the light of an arbitration; and by the nature of things the parties between whom the contention lay were excluded from the arbitrating body.

It was, moreover, he observed, to be remembered that the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, under which the Powers would be acting, contemplated a mediation to be exercised between Turkey and Greece by the Six Powers, not a Conference in which either Turkey or Greece was to be included.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 123.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs told me to-day that he had consulted the Cabinet on the subject of the communication relative to the appointment of a Commission to decide a new frontier between Greece and Turkey I had made to him, and that they fully concurred in the observations which his Excellency made to me on the subject, as reported in my telegram above mentioned.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 124.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 10, 1880.*

MAJOR TROTTER telegraphs from Diarbekir to-day:—

"Serious disturbances the day before yesterday at Aleppo, quelled by Pasha. At Mardin, the day before yesterday, Mahommedan mob murdered one of the principal merchants and plundered his house. At Haini Turks fought among themselves. A most ill-timed and injudicious order, received to-day from the Porte for practical abolition of debased currency must infallibly lead to serious disturbances, as the currency here is almost entirely beshlik. It will perhaps be the beginning of the end. Dr. Sachen arrived here yesterday; at 3 hours from Mardin his caravan was plundered by Kurds of property worth from 80*l.* to 100*l.* His papers saved, one muleteer wounded."

Consul Henderson telegraphs on 9th:—

"There is a famine. Bread riots are taking place. More serious disturbances are approaching."

No. 125.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 10, 1880.*

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF will resign unless Governor-General apologizes to him for an insult at Haskeui, where he accused him of disobedience by going to Adrianople (as originally instructed) after tranquillizing Turks and arresting offenders. He will also insist on dismissal of twelve Russian officers, whose sole object is agitation. He hopes to succeed in this with the aid of Russian Consul, to whom he represents to-day that those officers are a disgrace to their country, but he wishes this to be kept secret.

Presence of General prevented more serious consequences. Militia had already looted every Turkish village and violated a great number of women.

General caused many flocks of sheep to be restored. He knows of only one Turk killed by a Bulgarian officer, and of one large village actually fired, but there are several cases of suspected incendiarism.

One Russian and two Bulgarian officers in prison. Many more will probably be arrested by the Commission sitting at Haskeui.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 126.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 11, 1880, 10·30 A.M.*

M. DE GIERS has asked me whether it is proposed that Turkish Commissioner is to sit on the new Commission for the delimitation of the Greek frontier. I told him that as I read your proposal it was the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin who were to be represented on the Commission. Am I right?

No. 127.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 11, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 11, 1880.*

PRINCE BISMARCK accepts your Lordship's proposal respecting the Commission for the settlement of the Greek frontier, but having been informed from Constantinople that the Turkish Government reject it, he wished to know whether your Lordship intended Turkey to be represented in the Commission, since Article XXIV of the Berlin Treaty appeared to him to exclude her from taking part in the proposed mediation by the other Powers.

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 61. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 11, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

THE Greek Government are apparently likely to object to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, which has received the sanction of the majority of the Powers. As a mere matter of tactics, therefore, the Porte will do wisely to allow the objection to come from the other side.

In discussing this matter you should remind the Minister for Foreign Affairs that we were earnestly pressed by Musurus not to accept Waddington's proposal, which had received the assent of four other Powers. If now Turkey summarily throws us over under French guidance, she may be quite certain we will not again put ourselves into an embarrassing position on her account.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 170.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1880.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 228 of the 23rd ultimo, I have to state that I approve your Excellency having communicated to the Sublime Porte the information furnished in a despatch and its inclosures received by you from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica relative to the disordered condition of that province, owing to the excesses committed by roving bands of brigands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 171.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 231 of the 24th ultimo on the subject of a petition from fourteen Samarinotes, who state that they have been unjustly imprisoned at Janina, and I have to state to you in reply that I approve your Excellency having brought their case to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 179. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1880.*

THE information which reaches Her Majesty's Government from Athens makes it appear probable that the Greek Government will object to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Commission to study on the spot the question of the Greek frontier, which has received the sanction of the majority of the Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

Turkey is apparently making up her mind to take the same line in this question.

In discussing this question with Sawas Pasha you should remind his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were earnestly pressed by Musurus Pasha not to accept M. Waddington's proposal, which had received the assent of Austria, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

Should Turkey, acting under French inspiration, elect summarily to refuse the mode of arriving at an agreement upon this question which has been put forward by Her Majesty's Government, she must not expect that this Government will on a future occasion show itself equally willing to withhold its concurrence from the course proposed by other Powers, in order to further the wishes expressed by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 251.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 84 of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter from the Œcumenical Patriarch, informing me that it has been decided to send the Metropolitan of Nicomedia and the Archbishop of Philadelphia to Bucharest to endeavour to effect a settlement of the question of the endowments of the holy places in Roumania, confiscated by Prince Couza, and to assure the Roumanian Government of the conciliatory disposition of the Greek Church in the matter.

At His Holiness' request I have furnished these dignitaries with a letter to Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest recommending them to his good offices.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 132.

The Œcumenical Patriarch and other Dignitaries to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le 28 Février, 1880.

Excellence,

NOUS avons eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence la lettre que nous avons adressée à Son Altesse Royale le Prince de Roumanie concernant la question des monastères dédiés.

Une réponse de Son Altesse Royale récemment reçue nous apprend que les réclamations de l'Eglise ont été favorablement accueillies par Son Altesse Royale, et semble nous inviter à une entente directe et amicale avec le Gouvernement Roumain.

Désirant faciliter autant qu'il est à notre pouvoir la solution de la question que nous poursuivons et, en regard aux sentiments exprimés dans la lettre de Son Altesse Royale nous avons décidé d'envoyer à Bucarest deux délégués : leurs Excellences le Métropolitain de Nicomédie Philothecos, et l'Archevêque de Philadelphie, Gerassimos, avec mission d'exposer de vive voix au Gouvernement Roumain l'esprit de conciliation dont l'Eglise est pénétrée, et d'agir dans la mesure des pouvoirs dont ils sont revêtus, afin de provoquer l'entente désirable.

Nous venons en conséquence informer votre Excellence de cette nouvelle démarche, et en même temps la prier de vouloir bien recommander à qui de droit, et de la manière qu'elle jugerait la plus opportune, les efforts de nos délégués dans l'accomplissement de leur mission.

Agréez, &c.
(Signed by Œcumenical Patriarch and other Dignitaries.)

No. 133.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 252.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 28, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 220 of the 20th instant, inclosing to your Lordship a copy of a note addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Heads of Missions informing them that the Department of the "Kitabet," for the execution of sentences in cases in which foreigners are concerned, had been transferred to the Ministry of Justice, I have the honour to state that, the Commission of Dragomans having made its Report on the subject, a meeting of the Diplomatic body was held at this Embassy to consider the steps to be taken upon it. The Report having been unanimously approved, it was decided that it should be embodied in an identic note which M. Fournier was requested to prepare for our signatures. His Excellency having obligingly undertaken the task, the note was signed by the Representatives of all the Powers, and presented to the Porte on the 28th instant. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

I do not forward to your Lordship a copy of the Report of the Commission of the Dragomans, as it is, with the exception of a few omissions of no importance, identical with the note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Identic Note addressed by the Ambassadors at Constantinople to Sawas Pasha.

Constantinople, le 26 Février, 1880.

LES Soussignés ont l'honneur d'accuser réception à votre Excellence de la note en date du 16 courant, qui leur annonce la translation du bureau du Kitabet à proximité du Tribunal Mixte de Commerce.

Cette mesure est présentée sous la forme d'un simple changement de local et d'un transfert tout naturel, en apparence, des bureaux chargés de l'exécution des jugements à côté des Tribunal qui les a rendus.

Votre Excellence croit devoir assurer, en même temps, que la section du contentieux du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères n'en est pas moins conservée, et qu'elle est mise sous les ordres directs du Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat, à qui on s'adressera toutes les fois qu'une question de droit international viendra à surgir, ou qu'il s'agira de communications à faire, soit au Ministère de la Justice, soit aux autres Départements pour des affaires contentieuses mixtes. Or, chacun sait que le Kitabet n'était autre chose que la section du contentieux, appellation plus particulièrement employée dans les correspondances avec les autorités étrangères.

Il n'y a pas, d'ailleurs, à s'arrêter aux mots ; il importe d'aller au fond des choses. Les termes de la note Ministérielle ne concordent nullement avec ceux de l'Iradé qui nomme Callimdy Bey, ci-devant Kiatib Effendi, à ses nouvelles fonctions. Son rôle est actuellement d'exécuter les jugements rendus par la Première Chambre du Tidjaret, sous la direction et conformément aux ordres du Président de cette Chambre Mixte. Cela est si vrai que le Président de la Première Chambre a reçu immédiatement pour instructions d'arrêter, d'accord avec les Drogmans près le Tidjaret, les moyens pratiques les plus propres à assurer le fonctionnement du nouveau système.

La vérité est que la Porte, poursuivant la réalisation d'un plan depuis longtemps conçu et déjà en grande partie réalisé, a voulu établir, par cette dernière mesure, une ligne profonde de séparation entre le pouvoir administratif et le pouvoir judiciaire. Son but a été d'enlever à l'autorité administrative, tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces, toute espèce d'ingérence dans le domaine de la justice ; et ce grave changement s'est opéré en vertu d'un règlement récent sur les exécutions que la note de votre Excellence passe sous silence, mais qui porte expressément, dans ses premières dispositions, que les jugements seront exécutés par des officiers de justice recevant directement les ordres des Présidents des Tribunaux. La note de votre Excellence dit, au reste, clairement, que la décision prise par le Gouvernement à l'égard du Kitabet est destiné à mettre la distribution de la justice à l'abri de tout arbitraire administratif, et que, les décisions des Tribunaux se trouvant ainsi en dehors de l'action des fonctionnaires administratifs, les hésitations et les lenteurs qui en provenaient, et donnaient lieu à des plaintes de la part des missions, devront forcément disparaître. Vous ne sauriez cependant oublier, M. le Ministre, que si, dans le passé, des plaintes se sont élevées contre le Kitabet, c'est principalement parce que la Sublime Porte n'avait jamais voulu se prêter à l'élaboration d'un règlement sur les exécutions.

Quoi qu'il en soit à cet égard, la procédure suivie jusqu'à ce jour attribuait l'exécution des sentences rendues au profit des étrangers contre les Ottomans, au Kitabet, à Constantinople, et aux Valis, dans les provinces. Elle était basée sur un accord établi anciennement entre la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Puissances. Suivie sans interruption, depuis un très-grand nombre d'années, cette règle avait acquis la force et la valeur d'une Convention internationale tacite, et ne pouvait être changée, ou seulement modifiée, qu'à la suite d'une entente préalable.

Quelles sont, d'ailleurs, les garanties qu'offre aux intérêts étrangers l'application du nouveau système ?

Il est plus logique, cela est évident. Il est la conséquence des principes qui ont présidé, il y a sept ou huit ans, à la création du Ministère de la Justice ; mais son adoption, à l'heure actuelle, n'est-elle pas prématurée, et, tout en faisant de justes réserves pour Constantinople, où de notables progrès ont été réalisés au point de vue de l'organisation et de la composition des Tribunaux, ne serait-ce pas de l'imprévoyance que de laisser dans les provinces les Consuls étrangers à la merci des Juges d'abord, et des Présidents des Tribunaux ensuite ?

Les Soussignés se sont posés ces questions, et ils ont été unanimement d'avis qu'en tout état de cause une excellente loi sur les exécutions était, avant tout, rigoureusement nécessaire dans un pays où le choix des Juges et la situation qui leur est faite ne permettent pas d'avoir dans les Tribunaux une confiance suffisante.

Entrant, pour un instant, dans les vues de la Porte, ils ont tenu à prendre connaissance du règlement provisoire récemment élaboré par la Porte. Ils l'ont attentivement examiné, et n'auraient peut-être pas hésité à l'accepter, s'ils n'avaient eu le regret de constater, çà et là, l'existence de dispositions, les unes contradictoires, les autres prêtant à l'arbitraire, quelques-unes impraticables. Ils se sont bornés à noter, en passant, les Articles à modifier: le temps leur manquait pour les discuter, et du reste, ils avaient tous le sentiment qu'un travail plus consciencieux serait fait en pure perte, du moment où il le serait en dehors de tout concours de la Porte.

Ils se sont, en conséquence, ralliés à cette conclusion qu'il y avait lieu de demander au Gouvernement Impérial de vouloir bien désigner un fonctionnaire avec lequel leurs Délégués pourront examiner le Règlement, au point de vue de son application en ce qui concerne les étrangers, de manière à ce qu'il soit bien entendu qu'il ne sera dérogé en rien aux droits et prérogatives consacrés par les Traités.

Mais comme il est à prévoir que ce travail et les négociations à suivre en vue d'une entente définitive prendront un certain temps, les Soussignés proposent à votre Excellence, dans l'intérêt des affaires pendantes, de reprendre en attendant, par devant le nouveau Bureau Exécutif, l'exécution des jugements, à la condition expresse, toutefois, qu'il ne sera apporté jusqu'à nouvel ordre aucune innovation dans la procédure de l'ancien Kitabet, et que le *statu quo* sera en même temps maintenu dans les provinces.

Cette condition est d'autant plus indispensable, en ce qui concerne Constantinople, que Calliady Bey, l'ancien Kiatib Effendi, n'a plus qualité, aux termes de ses instructions nouvelles, pour exécuter les jugements rendus au profit des sujets étrangers contre les sujets Ottomans par les Tribunaux Civils, sa compétence étant limitée à l'exécution des sentences prononcées par le Tidjaret.

Dans le cas où la Porte ne serait pas disposée à accueillir favorablement une demande aussi raisonnable et juste, les Soussignés se verraient, à leur grand regret, dans la nécessité de la tenir responsable, vis-à-vis des justiciables étrangers, des graves préjudices qu'entraînerait une mesure prise, à l'insu des Chefs des Missions, avec une précipitation d'autant plus inexplicable qu'elle s'est produite au moment où le Kitabet, sous la direction intélligente, active, impartiale de Calliady Bey, fonctionnait à la satisfaction générale.

Les Soussignés, &c. (Suivent les signatures.)

No. 134.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 257.)

Constantinople, February 29, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 252 of the 28th instant, inclosing copy of the collective note addressed by the heads of Missions to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, relating to the new Codes of Civil and Criminal Law and Judicial Procedure recently promulgated by the Porte, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a printed reply to it, sent to us by Sawas Pasha.

This communication from his Excellency having been taken into consideration at a meeting of the Diplomatic Body held at the Embassy, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the answer to it proposed by the French Ambassador, a copy of which I beg now to forward to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

Sawas Pasha to Foreign Representatives at Constantinople.

Constantinople, le 11 *Février*, 1880.

Monsieur,

J'AI reçu et lu avec la plus grande attention la note responsive que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du , relativement à la réforme judiciaire.

Avant de répondre aux considérations contenues dans cette note et aux conclusions pratiques qui en découlent, il importe que je rappelle ici certains principes qui

sembleraient ne pas avoir été assez pris en considération dans la présente circonstance.

Ces principes se résument comme il suit:—

1. Le pouvoir législatif est une des prérogatives fondamentales de la souveraineté et s'exerce dans les différents Etats suivant les institutions que chacun d'eux a adoptées.

2. Tout Etat indépendant est libre de modifier son droit intérieur suivant ses propres appréciations et de réorganiser n'importe quelle branche de son Gouvernement sans que d'autres Etats aient le droit de s'en préoccuper sauf le cas de dispositions contraires au droit des gens en général, et aux stipulations spéciales existant entre lui et les autres Etats.

En faisant l'application de ces principes au cas qui nous occupe, on est obligé de reconnaître que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a fait usage d'un droit incontestable en modifiant sa législation intérieure en ce qui concerne la distribution de la justice dans les Etats de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Reste à savoir si les modifications apportées au droit intérieur Ottoman ont porté atteint soit au droit des gens en général, soit au droit international spécial de la Turquie.

Je vais prouver à votre Excellence le contraire.

Les engagements spéciaux qui règlent la situation des sujets étrangers en Turquie toutes les fois qu'ils entrent en transaction avec les sujets Ottomans ou qu'ils deviennent autrement justiciables de nos Tribunaux, datent de loin. Leur existence n'a jamais inspiré aux Puissances l'idée qu'elles pourraient intervenir si ce n'est pour assurer à leurs sujets la continuation des bénéfices qui en découlent.

Ainsi, trois réformes successives et fondamentales se sont opérées dans la réorganisation de nos Tribunaux sans avoir jamais soulevé la moindre objection ni observation de la part des Puissances.

Je crois inutile d'entrer dans les détails de ces changements successifs. Je tiens seulement à établir ici que chacun d'eux a eu pour résultat de modifier profondément la situation antérieure.

La dernière réforme judiciaire, sans modifier foncièrement la situation et sans toucher nullement au droit international spécial de l'Empire, a sur les précédentes l'immense avantage d'être parfaitement conforme au droit Islamique, et celui d'asseoir l'organisation judiciaire Ottomane sur les bases du droit moderne en la rendant ainsi identique à celle des pays les plus avancés.

Quelques mots suffiront pour effacer le dernier doute qui pourrait subsister à ce sujet.

Il est impossible d'admettre qu'une société humaine, quelque primitive qu'elle puisse être supposée, puisse exister sans que le Gouvernement se préoccupe de poursuivre les malfaiteurs et de traduire *ex officio* les criminels par devant la justice.

Le Ministère Public a dû donc exister de tout temps en Turquie, mais il était confié aux fonctionnaires administratifs, d'où il est constamment résulté une fatale confusion d'attributions et d'actes qui rendait impossible la bonne distribution de la justice et compromettait l'avenir du pays.

En chargeant des devoirs du Ministère Public des hommes plus ou moins spéciaux, mais en tout cas n'ayant à s'occuper que de ces seules fonctions, nous devions sans nul doute nous attendre aux remercîments et aux éloges des Représentants des pays qui doivent leur situation prospère à une organisation de la justice identique à celle que nous venons d'adopter. Il en est absolument de même pour ce qui concerne l'exécution des sentences. Jusqu'à présent c'étaient les fonctionnaires administratifs qui exécutaient les sentences dans les provinces, et une institution inconnue dans les autres pays, l'Idjra-Djémiéti, en était chargée à Constantinople.

Si l'on nous reproche l'abolition de l'Idjra-Djémiéti, nous répondons que les étrangers n'y avaient point recours, et si l'on regrette l'immixtion des fonctionnaires administratifs dans l'exécution des sentences, nous répondons qu'il nous est impossible de continuer cette anomalie et que du reste, les fonctionnaires administratifs devant dorénavant s'occuper de leurs propres travaux, il était de rigueur de nommer d'autres fonctionnaires pour l'exécution des sentences.

Il est impossible d'admettre que les changements en question aient rendu plus difficile le rôle des Consuls et des Dragmans, car à l'avenir les uns et les autres auront à leur disposition des hommes spécialement chargés de les écouter, n'ayant point d'autres fonctions à remplir, et par conséquent devant consacrer tout leur temps à l'accomplissement de leur charge.

Pour faire donc justice des plaintes des Consuls dont il est fait mention dans la note de votre Excellence, je n'ai qu'à rappeler les considérations déjà développées dans ma note précédente. J'y ajouterai seulement que si un meilleur accueil avait été fait

par le Corps Consulaire dans les provinces à la nouvelle organisation, celle-ci aurait déjà produit les meilleurs résultats.

Nous affirmons n'avoir introduit dans nos nouvelles lois aucune disposition de nature à porter atteinte aux stipulations spéciales internationales dont il a été parlé plus haut.

En tous cas, ce n'est que par l'application de ces lois et par le fonctionnement journalier de la nouvelle organisation que l'on pourra se rendre compte de ses défauts et constater s'il y est contenu des dispositions pouvant être considérées comme des infractions au droit international.

Au surplus, la Sublime Porte ayant déclaré ne point entendre modifier les dispositions spéciales en question, et ayant donné de tout temps et tout récemment encore les preuves les plus incontestables de son respect pour les Traités, nous ne croyons pas qu'il y ait lieu de douter de sa bonne foi et de sa ferme décision de maintenir ses engagements internationaux.

Il résulte de ce qui précède :

1. Que la Sublime Porte ne saurait consentir et moins encore participer à un examen de sa législation intérieure de la part des Missions Etrangères, ce qui constituerait une dérogation aux droits de la souveraineté ;

2. Qu'elle doit au contraire accueillir favorablement tout examen qui n'aurait d'autre objet que de rechercher si les dispositions des nouvelles lois ne sont pas contraires au droit des gens en général ou au droit international spécial à la Turquie.

Le mandat de la Commission dont votre Excellence m'annonce la formation ne pouvant en aucun cas s'écarter des principes ci-dessus posés, je n'aurai aucune difficulté à m'entendre avec son Excellence le Ministre de la Justice, afin que les explications et les éclaircissements nécessaires lui soient fournis de la manière la plus efficace ; mais il faut que l'institution de cette Commission n'amène pas les graves perturbations et les complications sans issue qu'elle risque d'engendrer si nous n'y avisions dès à présent et d'un commun accord.

Je m'explique.

Quelques Drogmans d'Ambassade ont refusé leur assistance à nos autorités judiciaires prétextant la formation de la Commission en question, et déclarant que la nouvelle organisation ne saurait être appliquée avant l'achèvement des travaux de cette Commission.

Or, les lois et règlements que cette Commission serait appelée à étudier sont depuis plusieurs mois en vigueur, et une foule de sentences ont été déjà rendues sous ce régime avec l'assistance Consulaire. Du reste, deux étant dans chaque procès les parties, et l'une de ces parties étant Ottomane dans les procès mixtes il y a impossibilité matérielle d'appliquer à la fois deux régimes à un seul procès.

Le respect des prérogatives de la souveraineté, les prescriptions fondamentales du droit et les nombreux et graves intérêts qui sont engagés nous empêchent d'admettre cette manière de voir qui, nous le croyons fermement, ne saurait, après les explications que nous venons de donner, être celles des éminents hommes d'Etat accrédités auprès du Gouvernement Impérial. Ceci doit être d'autant plus vrai que l'accord le plus parfait règne entre eux et la Sublime Porte pour ce qui concerne le fond de la question et qu'il ne saurait s'agir que d'une précaution, très-légitime d'ailleurs, que chaque Chef de Mission veut prendre pour la sauvegarde des droits dont jouissent en vertu des Traités ses nationaux dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Telle étant la situation, la seule voie qu'il est possible au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman d'adopter est celle de faire suivre à la nouvelle organisation son cours normal tout en n'excluant pas le concours éclairé de la Commission en question, dont les études auraient surtout pour effet de rassurer tout le monde au sujet du respect des stipulations internationales.

Je prie donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner à qui de droit ses ordres en conformité du contenu de la présente, afin d'assurer le plus promptement possible à tous le bienfait de cette nouvelle organisation judiciaire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

The Foreign Representatives at Constantinople to Sawas Pasha.

Péra, le 27 Février, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

LES Soussignés ont reçu la note imprimée en date du 25 courant, que votre Excellence a bien voulu leur adresser en réponse à leur note collective du 20 Janvier,

au sujet de la réforme judiciaire. Elle a cru devoir entrer dans des considérations d'ordre purement théorique sur la souveraineté et l'indépendance des Etats.

Votre Excellence leur permettra de ne pas la suivre sur le terrain ; aucun dissentiment n'a jamais existé entre elle et eux à ce sujet.

Il n'a jamais pu être dans leur pensée de contester au Gouvernement Impérial la liberté de modifier sa législation intérieure à l'égard de ses sujets.

En demandant à votre Excellence de vouloir bien désigner un fonctionnaire qui représenterait la Sublime Porte dans la Commission des Délégués des Missions, c'était dans le seul but de voir par un examen en commun si la nouvelle législation ne renfermerait pas des dispositions incompatibles avec les droits et prérogatives que les Traités en vigueur assurent aux étrangers et dans ce cas d'y remédier d'un commun accord. Quelques-uns des Soussignés avaient eu soin de s'en expliquer nettement et préalablement avec votre Excellence. Ils ne peuvent donc que regretter le malentendu qui paraît avoir eu lieu à cet égard.

Aucune divergence de vues n'existant entre eux et votre Excellence, ils espèrent qu'elle voudra bien faire connaître prochainement le nom du fonctionnaire qu'elle est disposée à nommer pour conférer avec la délégation des Drogmans constituée *ad hoc* par les Missions Etrangères à Constantinople.

Ils saisissent, &c.

(Signé) Chefs de Missions.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 258.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 29, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 66 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Porte respecting the claims of British subjects holding bonds upon the local Treasury of Damascus.

I shall continue to urge the Porte to take measures for the speedy settlement of these claims.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 28 Février*, 1880.

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 12 Février pour m'entretenir de l'affaire de M. Levi, sujet Anglais résidant à Beyrouth, détenteur de serghis de la Caisse de Damas.

En réponse, j'ai le regret d'informer votre Excellence que la Caisse du Vilayet de Syrie ayant à payer une grande quantité de serghis ne saurait en régler le mode de paiement que par une mesure générale ; or, toute exception en faveur du sieur Levi ne pouvant manquer de léser les intérêts des autres porteurs de serghis, et d'autre part une mesure générale ne devant pas tarder à être décrété par le Gouvernement Impérial, il est impossible de donner en ce moment suite à la demande du sujet Anglais en question, qui devra attendre encore quelque peu jusqu'à l'adoption de la mesure dont il s'agit.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAWAS.

No. 136.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 261.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 2, 1880.

THE Sultan has permitted Mahmoud Damat Pasha to return to Constantinople. His wife, His Majesty's sister, has long been endeavouring to prevail upon His Majesty to

recall her husband from exile, and she appears to have succeeded in doing so. I trust that His Majesty will not again place amongst his Counsellors a man who has been one of the principal causes of the disasters that have befallen His Majesty and his Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 137.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No 262.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a memorandum communicated by Sawas Pasha to the Hellenic Minister on the 23rd ultimo, replying to the memorandum of the Greek Plenipotentiaries of the 15th December last, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1143 of 1879, on the Turco-Greek Frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Extract from "La Turquie" of March 1, 1880.

QUESTION HELLÉNIQUE.

Mémoire communiqué le 23 Février, 1880, à son Excellence M. Coundouriotis, par son Excellence Sawas Pacha, en réponse au Mémoire lu et déposé par leurs Excellences MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la Séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, 1879.

EN réponse au Mémoire déposé par leurs Excellences les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, nous avons l'honneur de soumettre à nos honorables collègues les considérations que nous a suggérées l'étude de ce Mémoire sur chacun des six points qui y sont traités:

Premier Point.

Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce affirment que la ligne du thalweg est sous tous les rapports inacceptable, ce qui, suivant eux, n'a pas besoin d'être démontré; et que d'ailleurs elle présenterait plus d'inconvénients encore que la frontière actuelle et soulèverait les mêmes difficultés que celles qui sont indiquées dans le Mémoire Ottoman.

Nous n'avons jamais défendu la ligne du thalweg. Au contraire, nous nous sommes toujours appliqués à en démontrer les graves et nombreux inconvénients.

Cependant, plus d'un des éminents hommes d'Etat qui ont siégé au Congrès de Berlin verra avec étonnement la façon dont nos honorables collègues envisagent l'idée qui paraît avoir été adoptée par l'Aréopage Européen, et dont l'expression serait la ligne du thalweg que le Gouvernement Hellénique ne croit pas même nécessaire de discuter. Les observations du Mémoire Ottoman au sujet de cette ligne tendaient d'ailleurs à la faire modifier, de façon à éviter les graves inconvénients qu'elle présentait, notamment celui de supprimer tous nos débouchés de terre et de mer.

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous n'avons pas hésité à accepter le système Hellénique, consistant à tracer la ligne sur les hauteurs des vallées, nous bornant à appliquer ce système d'une façon équitable et rationnelle, en traçant la ligne à discuter sur les hauteurs méridionales et non sur les hauteurs septentrionales.

Deuxième et Troisième Points.

Le Mémoire critique toute la ligne méridionale, lui attribue les plus graves inconvénients, et déclare qu'il est impossible d'établir sur cette base une ligne-frontière. Cependant, nous avons suffisamment prouvé le contraire en faisant tracer par les hommes les plus compétents la ligne que nous avons présentée comme ligne du Congrès

et que nous avons soumise à la discussion. D'ailleurs, ne serait-il pas véritablement inique de doubler l'étendue de la cession territoriale demandée à la Turquie sous le prétexte qu'une ligne tracée au sud, c'est-à-dire dans les conditions normales, donnerait lieu à des difficultés. Un pareil raisonnement ne saurait trouver créance dans les Conseils de l'Europe.

Quatrième Point.

Il nous est absolument interdit de discuter la ligne présentée par le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce et d'examiner la valeur des arguments mis en avant pour la justifier. En effet, toute discussion doit avoir un but et doit être engagée en vue de convaincre les contradicteurs ou d'être convaincus par eux. Or, tel n'est pas le cas actuel, puisque la ligne en question est repoussée de prime abord par des fins de non recevoir insurmontables qui ont été nettement et amplement développés dans les explications écrites et orales que nous avons fournies et qui, nous en sommes persuadés, ont porté la conviction dans l'esprit de tous les hommes d'Etat de l'Europe.

Qu'il nous soit permis, à ce propos, d'exprimer le regret que nos honorables collègues aient cru devoir nous présenter un travail à l'appui d'une ligne généralement repoussée et que nous les avions priés à retirer.

Cinquième Point.

En ce qui concerne la Thessalie, nous n'entrerons pas en discussion sur l'affirmation un peu trop absolue du Mémoire Hellénique concernant la prétendue homogénéité des populations de cette contrée. Mais, en admettant que cet énoncé soit tout-à-fait exact, nous nous permettrons de demander ce qui adviendrait des Etats politiques du globe si, sous prétexte d'homogénéité et de similitude de race et d'origine, on venait à remanier toutes les frontières. D'après ce système, tout district dont la majorité de la population serait Grecque, devrait être annexé au territoire Hellénique. Est-ce à ce résultat que désirent arriver nos honorables collègues?

En ce qui concerne l'Epire, les considérations de nos collègues de Grèce sur le caractère et les causes de l'agitation qui s'est produite parmi la population Albanaise nous paraissent regrettables à ce point de vue qu'elles trouveraient plutôt leur place dans un réquisitoire diplomatique dirigé contre la Sublime Porte, que dans un Mémoire destiné à produire la conciliation et à amener l'entente entre les deux Hautes Parties. C'est pourquoi nous nous bornerons à affirmer, en réponse aux insinuations de cette partie du Mémoire Hellénique, que l'agitation qui existe parmi les populations de l'Epire n'a d'autre cause que la crainte d'être annexées à l'Etat voisin contre leur volonté formelle. Nous ajoutons qu'il n'y a pas lieu dès lors de rechercher à quelle race appartient cette partie si considérable de la population, mais bien de tenir compte de ses sentiments et de ses vœux et surtout des dangers auxquels ces contrées seraient exposées si l'on venait à les méconnaître.

Nous nous sommes soigneusement abstenus de prononcer le mot "Albanais." Les Albanais ne sont à nos yeux que l'un des éléments les plus vitaux qui peuplent l'Empire; rien de plus, rien de moins. Il est naturel que cette population Ottomane, si dévouée au Trône, si fidèle à l'Etat, se préoccupe et s'agite, en voyant qu'on veut l'enserrer dans les montagnes de l'Epire et la condamner à renoncer à tout espoir de progrès et de civilisation. Nous demandons si cette population a moins le droit qu'une autre d'avoir sa place au soleil parce qu'elle parle une langue qui n'est ni le Turc ni le Grec, et si Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, son Souverain légitime, doit la priver pour cela de sa sollicitude paternelle et de sa protection?

Sixième Point.

Cette dernière partie du Mémoire Hellénique tend à démontrer que la population de l'Epire est presque entièrement composée de Grecs, et que l'élément Musulman ou Israélite n'y figure guère que pour un sixième; d'où la conclusion qu'il n'y a point à redouter que l'annexion de cette contrée à la Grèce donne naissance à des troubles sérieux; qu'elle serait au contraire saluée par l'immense majorité de la population comme l'accomplissement trop longtemps attendu de ses vœux les plus ardents.

Cette solution est d'ailleurs déclarée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes comme étant seule propre à atteindre le but proposé et à assurer l'ordre et la paix dans ces

contrées ; tandis que, suivant eux, l'établissement de la ligne-frontière sur le thalweg du Calamas ou sur les hauteurs méridionales, créerait un état de choses aussi fâcheux que celui auquel on entend porter remède.

Nous jugeons comme parfaitement inutile de réfuter ici les assertions de nos honorables collègues relativement à la composition de la population de l'Épire. Nous devons nous borner à contredire ces assertions au triple point de vue de la classification, de l'histoire, et de l'ethnographie des habitants de cette province, et à déclarer que si nous croyions avoir besoin, pour étayer notre thèse, de produire les chiffres exacts des éléments composant la population de l'Epire, nous prouverions jusqu'à l'évidence combien les statistiques dont on parle et les données sur lesquelles elles ont été basées sont erronées et défectueuses. Elles ont été faites sur une idée préconçue et dans le but évident d'appuyer le principe d'homogénisme sur lequel on a cru pouvoir ériger le système de revendication embrassé par le Gouvernement Royal à propos des provinces limitrophes. Nous n'avons pas besoin de faire ici le dénombrement des sujets du Sultan et de rechercher l'origine de chacun d'eux pour prouver qu'ils doivent rester sous son sceptre. Grecs ou Turcs, Guègues ou Tosques, Musulmans, Chrétiens ou Israélites, sont au même degré ses enfants et ses sujets quatre fois séculaires, qu'il a également le devoir de conserver sans s'enquérir de leur origine ou de leur croyance.

Quant aux aspirations de ces populations et à leurs manifestations périodiques, nous désirons garder sur ce point le silence et n'être point obligés de les caractériser en en révélant la source et le mobile. Ainsi, en admettant même, ce qui n'est point, que les affirmations du Gouvernement Hellénique soient justifiées et que l'Epire ne soit habitée que par des Grecs de race et de religion, il n'en resterait pas moins certain qu'elle ne sauraient être cédée à la Grèce, parce qu'il est naturel qu'un pays, un district, une ville essentiellement Grec reste attaché à un Empire dont le Souverain règne sur la grande majorité des Grecs.

Quant à la fidélité de ces populations que l'on veut mettre en doute, et à l'épreuve que nos honorables collègues nous proposent pour la constater, nous déclarons tout simplement que ce sont là des doctrines contraires à l'ordre Européen ; des doctrines qui ont fait leur temps et qui ont disparu pour faire place à des principes plus favorables à la sécurité publique et à la stabilité des Etats.

Arrivés au dernier paragraphe du Mémoire Hellénique et désireux de ne point traiter les questions brûlantes qu'il soulève et dont l'examen serait peut-être de nature à compromettre l'entente que nous recherchons avant tout, nous nous bornons à déclarer que personne plus que nous n'a reconnu la gravité de la question qui nous occupe, et constate qu'elle n'est pas née d'hier, parce que ce n'est pas d'hier que des aspirations dangereuses se sont fait jour au détriment de la tranquillité de ces contrées.

Ajoutons que nous sommes heureux d'entendre une fois de plus de la bouche de nos honorables collègues qu'il ne s'agit pas de dépouiller l'une des parties pour enrichir l'autre. Le principe de droit général que nous avons invoqué, qui est, du reste, aussi bien un principe de morale, trouve son application dans le cas qui nous préoccupe, et c'est seulement en l'observant que nous éviterons qu'une question aussi élevée dégénère en un marché d'intérêt matériel. La question d'Orient à laquelle le Mémoire tend à rattacher avec raison la "rectification de frontières" recommandée à Berlin, est soumise dans ses différentes parties aux prescriptions du droit des gens et aux principes les plus élevés de la morale internationale. Si erreur il y a eu dans le passé, il serait dangereux de tenter d'y remédier par de nouvelles et plus graves erreurs qui auraient pour résultat inévitable des revendications et des haines implacables. Une aspiration n'est recommandable qu'autant qu'elle ne blesse point des intérêts légitimes et ne porte point atteinte à des droits séculaires dont la garde est confiée à l'humanité entière et par elle aux Gouvernements réguliers. Ces principes, respectons-les, et tâchons de les observer dans la solution de la question qui nous occupe.

Quant à la ligne dont il est une dernière fois question dans le Mémoire Hellénique, nous répondons que jamais il n'est entré dans les prévisions de l'Europe que la ligne générale qu'elle recommandait à Berlin dût être établie là où veulent la placer les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes qui, après avoir soutenu si longuement et si énergiquement que les indications du Protocole ne constituaient pas un simple vœu, mais bien un verdict impératif, les ont tout à coup abandonnées pour demander la cession d'un territoire plus que double de celui que pourrait raisonnablement comporter l'idée de la rectification de frontières demandée.

Quant à nous, fidèles à la promesse faite à l'Europe, nous demandons encore aujourd'hui, comme nous n'avons cessé de le faire, à discuter la ligne de Berlin.

Mémoire communiqué le $\frac{8}{15}$ Décembre, 1879, à son Excellence Sawas Pacha, par son Excellence M. Coundouriotis.

Dans le Mémoire que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans nous ont fait l'honneu de nous communiquer pendant la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, ils se sont proposé d'indiquer d'abord quelle serait selon leur manière de voir la véritable ligne septentrionale des deux vallées et quels sont les points dans lesquels nous nous sommes écartés de cette ligne. Ils ont bien voulu indiquer ensuite quelle serait la ligne à tracer sur les hauteurs méridionales qui seules peuvent et doivent être adoptées. Ils ont enfin ajouté, comme conclusion de leur Mémoire, qu'en nous conviant à entrer dans l'examen de cette ligne ils déclarent formellement qu'ils ne la présentent pas comme constituant une proposition de leur part, mais comme un simple aperçu de la ligne qui doit être considérée comme étant celle de Berlin d'après l'interprétation donnée par la Grèce aux indications du Protocole. Et pour rendre encore plus claire leur pensée ils déclarent en outre que cette ligne présentant des inconvénients analogues à ceux qu'ils ont signalés au sujet de la ligne du thalweg, il est bien entendu que cette ligne est à discuter, et que chacune des deux parties est libre de la critiquer et d'y introduire les modifications qu'un examen attentif et contradictoire pourra suggérer.

La pensée qui ressort de ces citations est, en effet, d'une évidence frappante.

Ayant successivement écarté la ligne septentrionale et la ligne du thalweg, et ayant indiqué comme simple aperçu à discuter une ligne méridionale, MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans s'empressent d'ajouter que même cette ligne présente des inconvénients analogues à ceux de la ligne du thalweg, et par conséquent en considérant cette délimitation comme sujette à discussion et à des modifications, il est évident qu'ils se réservent de la faire descendre encore plus bas et de la réduire à peu près à la ligne qui a été proposée à Preveza et qui a été déclarée inadmissible.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes regrettent de ne pas pouvoir suivre leurs honorables collègues sur ce terrain.

Ils regrettent encore plus de constater que la divergence de vues qui s'est manifestée pendant les négociations de Preveza n'a fait que s'accentuer de plus en plus pendant les négociations actuelles. La discussion ayant tourné dans un cercle se trouve aujourd'hui ramenée au même point où les négociations antérieures ont dû nécessairement échouer.

Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes pourraient se borner à ces seules considérations.

Mais désirant écarter le soupçon qu'ils évitent de discuter les lignes indiquées par leurs honorables collègues, ils se permettront de faire une observation sur ces lignes.

Dans le tracé de la ligne septentrionale MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont compris les affluents secondaires du Pénée, mais par une contradiction inexplicable ils ont laissé en dehors de la ligne l'affluent principal du même fleuve de Xiragis (Suran-taporos) et par conséquent le Mont Olympe, qui est la limite naturelle de la vallée (voir document annexé), tandis que dans la ligne méridionale ils vont au sud du Lac Karlo au lieu de tracer la ligne au nord de ce lac et de celui de Nessonis. De même la ligne qui devrait commencer à Scala-Fléris, et laisser Kissavo, va au-dessus de Karla, et au lieu de passer au nord de l'éventail qui est formé par les nombreux affluents du Pénée au sud de ce fleuve et dont les extrémités sont l'Enipéus et le Bliouris, elle se rapproche de la frontière actuelle. Quant au Calamas, on ne sait pas pourquoi on est descendu au sud des sources de ce fleuve, et l'on comprend encore moins pourquoi l'on a exclu le Metzovitico et le Zagoritico qui forment la rivière d'Arta. Une dernière conséquence de ce système a été l'exclusion du Metzovo, qui, d'après les principes de toute délimitation, doit être compris et dans la ligne septentrionale et dans celle du thalweg et dans la ligne méridionale (ainsi que nous l'avons prouvé dans le document annexé à notre précédent Mémoire) et l'exclusion aussi de la source principale du Pénée.

Il est évident qu'en traçant ces deux lignes on a tantôt appliqué et tantôt violé le principe qu'on a eu l'air d'adopter.

Nous devions constater ce procédé contradictoire dans le tracé des deux lignes parce qu'il révèle toujours plus l'intention de réduire la ligne du Protocole à celle de Preveza, et nous n'avons pas besoin de reproduire les arguments qui rendent cette ligne inacceptable. Au surplus, cette ligne n'ajouterait à la Grèce que quelques rochers et quelques villages, ce qui n'était certainement pas dans l'intention des Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances lorsqu'ils ont indiqué avec tant de sagesse la nécessité d'une rectification qui, en extirpant les germes des

difficultés actuelles, serait par cela même le gage d'un avenir pacifique pour les deux pays.

C'est en nous inspirant uniquement de cette pensée de paix et de justice que nous avons consciencieusement recherché quelle est la ligne qui répond le mieux aux indications du Protocole et aux intentions de l'Europe.

En proposant cette ligne nous avons dit, à plusieurs reprises, que notre travail n'était ni complet ni définitif, et nous avons invité nos honorables collègues à le discuter avec nous dans l'espoir de parvenir à une entente directe et définitive.

Nous leur adressons encore une fois cette invitation. Et pour leur donner une nouvelle preuve de nos dispositions conciliantes nous reproduisons notre ligne modifiée dans les points où elle a paru s'écarter des indications précises du Protocole. Cet écart d'ailleurs est d'une importance minime pour la Turquie ; il garantirait beaucoup mieux la sécurité des possessions du royaume Hellénique et contribuerait grandement à l'établissement des rapports de bon voisinage entre ces deux Etats limitrophes conformément au désir des Grandes Puissances.

La ligne que nous avons l'honneur de proposer commencerait au Cap Stylos dans la Mer Ionienne, limite offerte par la chaîne des montagnes du nord-est, où se fait le partage des eaux. Elle continuerait par le village Verva, et ensuite par la crête des montagnes Pharmakovouni et Stougara elle parviendrait au village Longos, point central du bassin de réception de Longovitz, un des principaux affluents du Calamas. De là elle remonterait à la source primitive du Calamas au sud de la plus haute cime des monts Némertza à l'endroit appelé Bitzicopoulo au nord de Lachanocastro. Elle s'élèverait ensuite aux sources de l'Arachtos entre Frangiades et Négiades, où se fait aussi le partage des eaux, et de là elle continuerait jusqu'à Krania, qui est le point le plus avancé du secteur de Metzovo. A partir de ce point la ligne continuerait telle qu'elle a été proposée en suivant toujours la ligne de partage des eaux jusqu'à un point à déterminer entre Dion et Spitzi.

Nous avons la confiance que cette ligne tracée sur la limite septentrionale des deux vallées correspond de la manière la plus rigoureuse aux indications du Protocole et qu'elle offre en même temps une frontière garantissant la sécurité réciproque des deux Etats. Cette sécurité sera le fondement de leurs rapports de bon voisinage et elle assurera par-là l'avenir pacifique et prospère des deux pays.

Annexe.

L'histoire des guerres en tout temps a démontré qu'il y a différents points dans une région donnée où les armées ont dû se rencontrer comme dans un camp naturel, formé par la configuration et les formes caractéristiques du sol. L'Archiduc Charles a formulé ce fait historique en disant que les opérations militaires dépendent de la configuration du sol et la géographie démontre qu'il faut examiner les accidents naturels et les accidents artificiels.

Examinons les deux espèces d'accidents.

(A.)—*Accidents Naturels.*

La structure ou le relief du terrain au nord du Pénée, depuis Zarkos jusqu'à ses embouchures, se décompose en une dépression du Sarantaporos et en protubérances du Mont Olympe.

Le Sarantaporos est une vallée subalterne, qui, convergeant vers les points très-rapprochés de l'intérieur de la vallée primaire du Pénée, forme en même temps le chemin le plus direct de la crête à la plaine. On peut par un mouvement rapide et d'un seul coup rendre inutile la défense de l'embouchure du Pénée en attaquant le flanc de l'ennemi sans exposer ses propres communications.

Les sentiers dans le Mont Olympe sont les seules voies de passage entre le versant oriental et le versant occidental ; aussi ont-ils une valeur stratégique incontestable, qui ne sera pas méconnue, quand on voudra fixer scientifiquement les points terminus de la nouvelle frontière vers la mer Egée.

Nous n'entrerons pas dans l'examen de la valeur militaire absolue de ce point, quoique ce soit un élément fort précieux pour en déterminer l'importance. Nous nous bornons seulement à dire que les fonctions stratégiques des deux accidents caractéristiques susmentionnés sont :

1. Que le maître du Mont Olympe, qui forme la première ligne de défense de la

Péninsule Hellénique, est le maître de l'embouchure du Pénée, qui forme la seconde ligne ;

2. Le maître du Sarantaporos est le maître de la même embouchure, parce que les dimensions verticales et horizontales, la roideur et la déclivité des pentes du Mont Olympe, ainsi que la direction, l'inclinaison, et la longueur exiguë rendent ce point plus utile à l'invasion qu'à la défense, et ceci pour trois raisons :

1. Parce que l'agresseur n'est pas obligé de parcourir un long chemin et d'allonger ses colonnes, c'est-à-dire il ne se trouve pas dans la nécessité de les faire marcher en échelons à des distances considérables ;

2. Parce que la défense ne peut avoir des ressources multiples et successives ;

3. Parce que la défense ne peut pas inquiéter les communications de l'ennemi.

Tout ceci rend incontestable la vérité ci-dessus et ne peut pas donner lieu à des discussions.

(B.)—*Accidents Artificiels.*

Dans le pays qui environne Elasson on trouve les forts suivants :

Dion, Platamona, Kastri, Phila ou Lycostomon, Lapathoule et trois autres forteresses au rempé, Castro, Kaleh-Tépé (Gonos), Gonokoudilon, Paleo Kastro (près Nezeros), Tour d'Endiction (Deutundá), Lossonos, Paleo Kastro (près Vuvalu), Selos (la citadelle) poste fortifié par Ali Pacha, Duklista, Vigla (de Velustana), &c.

Le nombre de ces lieux fortifiés fait voir que jamais une ligne conventionnelle n'a pu être considérée comme suffisante, quoiqu'on ait voulu renforcer artificiellement en d'autres temps ces lignes par rapport aux lignes stratégiques. Mais tous ces forts des montagnes, destinés à intercepter le passage dans les vallées, ont généralement une valeur stratégique d'un caractère plutôt défensif qu'offensif, parce que leur effet est limité à la vallée seule où ils sont construits.

Examinons maintenant le pays qui est borné par l'Haliacmon jusqu'à Vervas.

Ce pays forme un triangle, dont le sommet est formé pas Castoria et un des côtés par la vallée de Vistritza, ou Castoria-Korytza-Lapsist Siatista. L'autre angle est formé par Vounassa, ou le grand coude, qui est après la jonction de Vénético et de Vistritza. La base de ce triangle est formée par l'Haliacmon jusqu'à Verria, d'où part la route qui, traversant plus bas le point méridional du Lac Yanitza, se rencontre avec le chemin de fer de Salonique. C'est de ce point que commence l'autre côté du triangle par Yanitza-Vodena-Ostrovo-Castoria, ou plus au sud Ninousta-Kaïlar.

Second triangle sommet Salonique Servia-Dion ou Malathria.

Dans ces deux triangles il y a plusieurs centres importants de richesse, d'industrie, et de commerce, et de tout ce qui constitue la vitalité d'un Etat. Il y a des points de croisement de différents chemins, qui sont toujours très-intéressants comme centres des grandes communications du pays. Ces communications forment un même système entre elles, et elles se prêtent un appui réciproque.

L'importance de Salonique avec son chemin de fer est assez connue ; cette ville peut servir comme point de départ de trois lignes d'opérations terrestres, qui aboutissent à la route parallèle de Velvendos à Catérini, et des lignes d'approvisionnement avec toutes les échelles du rivage, et comme appui d'aile certainement elle sera toujours une grande menace pour l'Etat de Grèce, qui ne disposera que de forces moins considérables.

Velvendos et surtout Servia peut servir comme point de départ de toutes les forces militaires qui peuvent se loger dans le premier triangle, et se réunir à Kozani en parcourant un chemin très-court.

Dans ce premier triangle il y a Kozani, qui est une position intérieure concentrique d'où elles pourront accourir promptement sur un point quelconque, et les troupes Turques peuvent se mouvoir suivant les divers rayons avec l'avantage du temps et de l'espace.

La ligne fluviale sur l'angle du grand coude de Vounassa présente un grand saillant, qui est une position qui flanque stratégiquement les deux sections latérales en distance proportionnelle à la grandeur de saillie, et où le grand coude forme l'angle du triangle.

1. Servia-Castoria, plus au nord de Néochori qui conduit à Vlacholivado.

Servia.—Défilé de Servia, Col Portes, de là la route se bifurque en deux directions, dont l'une conduit au nord de Vigla à Néochori Vlacholivado, et l'autre au sud de Vigla (949,749) à Sarandaporos.

Servia.—Col Demir-Capou Metaxa, Sarandaporos.

2. Caterina.—Makrya-Bachi, Velvendos, petit triangle intérieur dans lequel

peuvent se masser les forces militaires du second triangle pour attaquer Pétra et de là Hagios-Dimitrios.

Les routes normales au fond convergent vers le point important de l'intérieur Hagios-Dimitrios et le Vlacholivado, Kokkinoplos, et Sélo formeront la première ligne de défense, ayant devant elle comme première ligne de résistance le col, qui est en avant de Servia et le défilé de Pétra; cette ligne a le défaut d'être trop restreinte et la défense ne doit pas se laisser trop resserrer par l'assaillant. On ne peut ni loger ni développer beaucoup de forces et en cas de besoin, se jeter de côté pour rejoindre la base principale du Pénée, menacée par une manœuvre tournante qui force la défense, tandis que la Turquie aura une double ligne d'opérations vers un même objectif et même une ligne convergente, et en même temps avec d'autres forces elle menacera du versant Oriental de l'Olympe, le Pénée même, c'est-à-dire la véritable base de la défense qui est si rapprochée.

Mémoire communiqué le 23 Février, 1880, à son Excellence M. Coundouriotis, par son Excellence Sawas Pacha.

Le Mémoire qui nous a été adressé en dernier lieu par nos honorables collègues contient d'abord la critique de la ligne indiquée dans notre dernière séance comme étant la véritable ligne de Berlin, tracée d'ailleurs conformément au système préconisé par le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce. En la soumettant à la discussion, nous avions prié nos honorables collègues de vouloir bien l'étudier avec nous attentivement et minutieusement, à l'effet de la modifier et de la rendre également acceptable aux deux Etats. Nous avions d'autant plus insisté sur la nécessité de cette étude qu'à nos yeux cette ligne présentait à peu près les mêmes inconvénients que la ligne du thalweg, en ce sens qu'elle nous privait de tout débouché dans les golfes d'Arta et de Volo. Si nos collègues avaient bien voulu se prêter à cet examen ils auraient certainement facilité la tâche commune et nous aurions pu, en tenant compte des convenances des deux Etats et des intérêts les plus vitaux des populations, trouver la ligne qui doit mettre fin à nos débats. Ils ne l'ont pas voulu.

Aujourd'hui, ils présentent un travail qui critique cette ligne comme si elle avait été offerte à titre de ligne définitive ou adoptée par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans. Il ne nous resterait donc qu'à réitérer la prière que nous leur avons adressée à notre dernière séance et à insister auprès d'eux pour qu'elle reçoive aujourd'hui un meilleur accueil.

Quant à la ligne que nos collègues nous présentent comme une ligne nouvelle, il nous a suffi et il suffira à chacun de jeter les yeux sur la carte pour être convaincu que cette ligne suit, dans près des deux tiers de son parcours, le même tracé que la ligne précédemment indiquée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, et que dans son dernier tiers elle n'en diffère qu'insensiblement.

Après la désapprobation générale qu'avait rencontrée la première ligne présentée à la Conférence par nos honorables collègues, nous ne nous attendions pas à les voir présenter comme une ligne nouvelle un tracé qui en réalité n'en est que la reproduction à peine amendée. Discuter cette ligne serait faire supposer que nous avons pu croire qu'elle paraîtrait digne de nous être recommandée, et cette crainte est bien éloignée de notre esprit. Nous nous en abstenons donc absolument.

Quant au travail scientifique présenté à l'appui de ce tracé ainsi qu'à l'autre travail annexé au Mémoire lu par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, il est facile d'en faire justice. Il nous suffira pour cela de constater que l'auteur ne s'est préoccupé que d'obtenir pour son pays toutes les sécurités désirables et de priver l'autre pays de toute défense possible.

Nous aurions pu nous en tenir là sans encourir des reproches de la part des esprits impartiaux; mais fidèles à nos idées de conciliation et désireux de donner satisfaction à nos honorables collègues qui nous ont demandé une proposition concrète, nous n'hésitons pas à formuler les bases précises sur lesquelles nous espérons pouvoir établir l'entente désirée.

Ayant suffisamment démontré la nécessité absolue pour nos populations de conserver des débouchés dans les deux golfes, nous proposons à nos collègues d'infléchir les deux extrémités de la ligne de Berlin que nous leur avons soumise, de façon à les faire aboutir vers le point de Thèbes du côté de Volo et vers Anino du côté du golfe Ambracique.

Pour le reste de la ligne, nous le discuterions avec nos honorables collègues en

prenant autant qu'il nous sera possible leurs vœux en considération et en nous efforçant d'arriver à un résultat pratique également acceptable par les deux Etats.

Nous ne doutons pas que la franchise avec laquelle nous formulons la proposition désirée par nos honorables collègues ne soit justement appréciée, et que nos travaux ne prennent la direction pratique que nous avions essayé de leur donner en proposant l'étude d'une ligne susceptible de subir les modifications qui seraient jugées nécessaires, après examen et discussion, pour établir l'entente définitive entre les deux Etats.

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 271. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed on good authority that the Sultan in sending his Iradé approving the line of frontier to be offered to Greece, as recommended by the Council of Ministers, added words to it to the following effect:—

"It is with the most profound grief, and with a bleeding heart, that I have decided upon the line proposed by my Ministers, and that I authorize my Commissioners to recommence the negotiations upon this basis. Let it be understood that in the territory to be ceded to Greece no Mussulman village is to be included. This cession is the last limit to which I can agree, and I warn my Ministers that at no price, and upon no pretext, will I consent to further concessions."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 273. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 3, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Sultan informed me yesterday that he had issued his Iradé approving the Mazbata submitted to him by the Council of Ministers, in which the territory to be offered to Montenegro in exchange for Gusinjé is specified. His Majesty expressed his earnest hope that an arrangement would be now come to with the Principality, and observed that he would have been prepared to offer even better terms had not a Commission of military officers opposed the surrender of certain points which they considered of much strategical importance to Turkey. I assured His Majesty that, although Her Majesty's Government had not taken any active part in the negotiations which were pending for an exchange of territory with Montenegro, they would learn with very great satisfaction that the two parties to it had come to an understanding, and that this dangerous question were settled. I could not, I said, conceal from His Majesty that, if it were not before the spring, there was serious reason to fear that hostilities might ensue between the Montenegrins and Albanians, which might lead to grave consequences to Turkey.

I saw Count Corti in the evening. He told me that Sawas Pasha had just communicated to him the Sultan's Iradé, of which he showed me a translation. It enters into a detailed description of the line of frontier to be offered to Montenegro, specifying the villages and tribes which are to remain in the possession of each country respectively. Count Corti considered the proposal of the Porte to be very unsatisfactory, and one that could not be accepted by the Prince. In fact, it gave really less to Montenegro on the side of Kuchi-Kraina than had been assigned to her by the Treaty of Berlin, whilst it pretended to offer a compensation for Gusinjé. However, he thought it would lead to an arrangement in the end, as he should advise his Government to recommend the Prince of Montenegro, when rejecting the proposal, to make a counter one by way of ultimatum, giving the Porte, say, ten days to accept or reject it. Sawas Pasha had led him to believe that the Porte would then come to terms, and the matter would be settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation by Mr. Willmore, one of the student interpreters, of an article from the "Neologos," a Greek newspaper published at Constantinople, commenting upon the articles of the new provincial regulations which relate to public instruction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Extract from the "Neologos" of February 28, 1880.

A COPY of those articles of the new provincial regulations which relate to public instruction has lately fallen into our hands. It would be superfluous to point out the object of the skilful arrangement of these articles, which we recommend to the careful perusal of our readers; but we feel ourselves justified in remarking that if all the much-talked-of reforms which are to be introduced in the European provinces of the Ottoman Empire are similar to these articles, they exhibit a misconception of the spirit of the Berlin Treaty.

The object of the insertion of these articles is, as we gather from the Turkish newspapers, to assimilate, or rather to absorb and amalgamate the different races of the Empire into one of a visionary and chimerical character, to which every nation must sacrifice its national rights, the traditions of ages.

Is this the result which the European Powers endeavoured to obtain at Berlin? Is this the edict which they issued in the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty? Did they seek to better the lot of the Christian populations by the abolition of even those few privileges, under the shield of which, although their condition is that of everlasting slavery, they were able to preserve their national existence? Did they seek to establish a complete equality by the abolition of all national distinction; by withholding from the nations of European Turkey the right of national instruction—the right of devoting to this object the national resources, meagre as they are, which have been acquired at the cost of sweat and blood? No, the model which the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty proposes as a basis of the reforms which are about to be introduced in the provinces clearly demonstrates what were the intentions of the European Powers.

This model is the Organic Law of Crete—the law by which the Christian population of the island obtained the partial satisfaction of their legal claims, acquired new privileges in addition to the old, and the right of employing their resources at their own pleasure, under the superintendence, but without the actual interference, of the administrative authorities.

Europe has never been entranced by the delusive dream, which is at times beheld by our Turkish brethren even in their waking hours—the dream that all the different nationalities of Turkey can be amalgamated into one. Europe has ever been sensible to the fact that Turkey, like Austria and Switzerland, is not a nation, but an Empire, in which various nations dwell; and it was the desire of Europe that all these nations should be citizens of the Ottoman Power, living together in friendly relation, but each retaining their own national rights, as the French, Germans, and Italians in Switzerland, and the Germans, Hungarians, and Slavs in Austria.

The Turkish Government is doubtlessly entitled to enforce political education if she wishes to do so upon every nationality alike, but she does not possess the right of interfering in matters of national instruction unless, indeed, these far-famed reforms have in view the abolition of the few privileges which have enabled us to carry forward public education with greater success than that which was achieved by the Turkish Government, when by means of the law concerning the vilayets the privileges of the population of the Sporades relative to self-government were annulled, and the former prosperity of these islands was lost for ever.

No. 142.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 80. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 26, 1880.*

I HAD a conversation, on the 22nd instant, with the Provincial Procureur-Général, M. Przewalski, who is the son of Clementi Bey, a Pole in the Turkish service, on the subject of the state of affairs in this province, and particularly with reference to the administration of justice.

As regards the latter, his views coincided entirely with those of the Departmental Procureur, as reported in my telegram No. 10 of the 12th instant.

Every obstacle is being put in the way of doing justice to the Mussulman and Greek population, and the Courts are consequently so encumbered with cases in which no action is taken that their operation is almost totally suspended.

The Judges, who are nearly all Bulgarians, are entirely ignorant of the law, and the Procureur-Général stated to me that they all took bribes.

He referred to a recent instance in which a case had been decided on the pretended recent testimony of witnesses who had been dead for more than two years. The Greek Consul, I may also here mention, has presented an appeal in an important case which had been tried and decided in favour of a Bulgarian without the summoning of the Greek defendant or his witnesses.

As regards the political situation of the province, M. Przewalski expressed his firm conviction that no order or justice could be established in this province so long as Aleko Pasha remained Governor-General and M. Crestovitch Secretary-General.

The former he considered to be entirely wanting in ability and moral courage, while he looked upon M. Crestovitch as a man of dangerous character, devoid of all principle, and as one who had sold himself to the Secret Committees.

The Procureur-Général also said that he did not believe in the sincerity of the measures that had been adopted for the suppression of those Societies, and that the Circulars which M. Crestovitch was being compelled to issue to the Prefects would have no practical effect whatever. The conspiracy embraced all the officials in the province, and nothing short of a radical measure, such as the removal of Aleko Pasha and M. Crestovitch, would bring the conspirators to their senses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. MICHELL.

No. 143.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 21 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship, in greater detail, an account of the action which M. Schmidt has taken in the matter of the Secret Societies.

At the meeting of the Privy Council on the 24th instant the Director of Finance insisted that the question of the letter addressed to the Governor-General by the Greek Consul on the subject of the persecution of the Greeks should take precedence over the questions which the Council had assembled to discuss, namely, the next Budget of the province.

This demand was met with derision on the part of the Governor-General and the Bulgarian members of the Council, who joined in asking M. Schmidt whether he was really in earnest, and whether he was in reality not aware that the whole matter was an intrigue on the part of the Greek Consul. Even Dr. Vulcovitch, who had on a previous occasion stated to M. Schmidt that Dr. Yankoloff and other members of the Permanent Committee were in receipt of 50 liras per month from the Secret Committee, ridiculed the idea of any such Committee being in existence, or of any Circular having been issued by it to the effect alleged by the Greek Consul.

He advised the Director of Finance to seek for the solution of the intrigue "on the Djambaz Tépé," the address of this Consulate-General.

Aleko Pasha supported the views of his Bulgarian adviser, by stating that M. Man-

choff, the alleged printer of the Circular in question, had stated to him that morning in the most positive manner that no such document had ever been printed by him.

After Aleko Pasha and the Bulgarian members of the Council had entirely committed themselves to this view, M. Schmidt requested the Governor-General to retire with him to an adjoining room, where he produced to his Excellency the original printed document, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

The Governor-General merely expressed his astonishment, and hurriedly left the room to rejoin M. Crestovitch and Mgr. Panaretos, who were in consultation in another apartment.

When his Excellency returned to the Council Chamber M. Schmidt stated that he had convinced the Governor-General of the correctness of the statements made by the Greek Consul, and called upon his colleagues to discuss the measures that should be taken in such deplorable circumstances. He added that no honourable man could remain a member of a Government which should fail to do its duty in the matter of a conspiracy of which the existence and the object had now been proved.

The Governor-General acknowledged that M. Schmidt had proved to him the truth of the allegations made by the Greek Consul, but the Bulgarian Directors having insisted on the proofs being produced to them as well, M. Schmidt placed on the Council table the document which he had exhibited to Aleko Pasha.

As the document bore marginal corrections and the name of the printer, the fact of its authenticity as a "revise" of printed proof, emanating from the printing office of M. Manchoff, the editor of the "Narodni Glas," could not be denied. The Bulgarian members of the Council proceeded, however, to argue from a verbal translation which they made for the benefit of Aleko Pasha, M. Schmidt, and General Strecker, that the Circular was not of the dangerous and illegal character which had been attributed to it by the Greek Consul. There was no mention in it of "his Beatitude," of "excommunication," of "punishment by the bastinado," or of "imprisonment."

But M. Schmidt insisted on the approximate identity of the contents as stated by the Greek Consul with those of the printed Circular of which the authenticity was beyond dispute, and he called upon the Governor-General to cause M. Matiufski, the Secretary of the Gymnastic Society, whose name was affixed to the Circular, as well as the printer, M. Manchoff, to be immediately arrested, and a search to be made in both their houses and business establishments for documents of a similar revolutionary tendency.

A long discussion ensued, during the course of which the Bulgarian members of the Council, and particularly M. Crestovitch, manifested their opposition to the course on which M. Schmidt had insisted, and which General Strecker had likewise advocated.

The debate was brought to a conclusion, without any decided result, by the Governor-General moving the order of the day, and shortly after the subject of the Budget had been introduced his Excellency left the Council.

The same evening, however, M. Schmidt addressed to Aleko Pasha the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requesting his Excellency, in virtue of the conditions on which he had agreed to withdraw his resignation, to state whether the necessary orders had been given to the Procureur for the arrest of the two delinquents; and pending the receipt of an answer M. Schmidt ceased to attend to the duties of his office.

Two days later the Governor-General summoned a special Council, to which he submitted the letter that had been addressed to him by the Director of Finance.

A warm debate ensued, and lasted two hours. Aleko Pasha was asked, with reference to the conditions mentioned by M. Schmidt, whether his Excellency had entered into a Convention with the latter, and what was the nature of that Convention.

He was also asked whether he or M. Schmidt was the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

In the end, however, the Governor-General and the Bulgarian members of the Council were forced tacitly to admit that they had been placed by M. Schmidt in a position from which there was no escape without serious consequences, and it was therefore resolved to instruct the Procureur-Général to commence proceedings against MM. Matiufski and Manchoff.

M. Schmidt resumed yesterday his duties as Director of Finance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Circular of Gymnastic Society to Bulgarian Villages.

(Translation.)

District "Strelets" (Rifle) Gymnastic Society,
Plovdiv, 18 .

Honoured Sirs,

ON receipt of these presents make at once the following arrangements:—

1. Call a meeting of the members of the Council of Elders, and summon to that meeting the old men of your village who, thirty years ago, were at the head of affairs in the village. You will then question them minutely in order that each may recollect what you have contributed from the village towards the construction of the church of St. Marina in Plovdiv, which the Grecophiles* have appropriated, and in which they have established their cathedral ("metropole").

You will then prepare a list and insert in it how many piastres you contributed towards the erection of that church, how many kilés of wheat, rye, barley, maize, &c. You will note down in what manner that corn was collected from you, whether per house, per chift (couple of oxen), or (so many) kilés per thrashing-floor; also you will state whether, in cases where a man had no wheat, they took from him a kilé and a-half of rye, or two kilés of barley or maize. Indicate at what place the same was stored, and to whom it was delivered.

You will also state how many times you were made to go to Plovdiv, and how many days you were made to work gratuitously, with carts, with horses, or gave personal service. That list the Council of Elders must sign and affix its seal to it. It must also be signed by such of the old men as gave money or corn, or who worked; and send that list as quickly as possible.

2. On the first holiday or Sunday, when the people are leaving church, the priest will exhort them to certify on oath promising that they will not take anything from, or give anything to, Grecophiles. Should any Grecophile make his appearance in your village with any goods soever, or should any such commission agent come to a village for grain, or to buy anything else, tell him most quietly and most gently to leave your village. When you go into the town to buy anything, take good care that you give no money to a Grecophile. You may buy from everybody else, for instance, from Bulgarians, Orthodox and Catholic, from Armenians, Jews, Turks, and Gipsies, but not from the Grecophiles. Our only enemies are the Grecophiles, who feed and fatten, and who fill their coffers with the sweat of our brows (with our backs), and who dig our grave every minute.

We should be fools to allow them to beat us on the head with our own stones. If a Grecophile has a chiflik (farm) in your village, fly from it as from an accursed place. None of you must plough their fields. If any such enemy has a water-mill or shop in your village, you must not put your foot inside either his water-mill or shop. Let them be ruined. Should any man of your village, for personal advantage, receive a Grecophile in his house, come into the town as if blind and sell to or buy from a Grecophile, pursue him, and also inflict upon him a fine for the benefit of your school.

It is the Grecophiles who, by their want of character, have become the weapons of our enemies, who have divided our fatherland into five parts.

It is they who spread day and night the darkest calumnies respecting our entire nation in order to bring back here Turkish authority. This can never be; our duty is to make that low class understand this.

We are convinced that you will faithfully carry out our instructions.

Accept, &c.
For the President, the Secretary, and Treasurer,
(Signed) D. N. MATIUFSKI.

Printing Office of D. V. MANCHOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Février, 1880.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

VOTRE Excellence a quitté le Conseil Privé sans faire connaître sa décision sur la demande que j'avais formulée pour l'arrestation des deux personnes D. N. Matiufski et D. V. Mantchof, et la perquisition immédiate de leurs domiciles et établissements.

* Literally "Grecoman."—T. M.

Les conditions sous lesquelles j'ai consenti à retirer ma démission m'obligent de prier votre Excellence de bien vouloir me faire savoir si les ordres nécessaires ont été donnés au Procureur.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 144.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 91.) *Philippopoli, February* 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 27 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Circular that has been addressed to the Prefects in this province by the order of the Governor-General, on the subject of the suppression of illegal Societies and Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Circular of Secretary-General to Prefects.

(Translation.)

M. le Préfet,

MANY rumours have lately been current, and it has even been stated in the newspapers, that certain Secret Committees existed in Eastern Roumelia, which formed a separate Administration, employed various officials, collected from the Bulgarians (contributions of) money given willingly or unwillingly for the payment of those officials, and I know not for what other pretended objects of public utility.

If this be untrue, I shall be glad if you will give me exact and conclusive information; should it, however, be true, it is surprising that you should hitherto have known nothing, and failed to report anything on the subject of such affairs.

It is recognized, M. le Préfet, that in all well-governed regions (countries), and especially in Eastern Roumelia, are strictly forbidden, first, the existence of Secret Committees, or any Societies soever the object and the means of which are illegal (Article 42 of the Organic Statute); and secondly, the imposition upon, and collecting from, the inhabitants any other moneys except those which are taxes established by law, or other Government or judicial contributions, and that only by officials appointed by the Government for such purpose. But for men not authorized by the Government to go about (circulate) in the villages, secretly or openly, and to collect money from the simple peasantry, whether by force or not, telling them that such money is (wanted) for I do not know what object of public utility or benevolence, &c., is not only illegal and unpardonable, but even punishable. If it be said that all this has been done in the name and for the account of the Gymnastic Societies, you know that those Societies, having been abolished by an Ordinance of his Highness the Governor-General, cannot at present exist, and nothing can be done for them or by them.

Consequently, and in conformity with the strict orders of his Highness, I beg you, M. le Préfet, to put into execution without fail or delay the following points (measures):—

1. Proclaim and make known, either directly or through the competent authorities, to all the inhabitants both of towns and villages, that the Gymnastic Societies are entirely abolished, that they can no longer exist under any pretext whatever, whether under the name of Gymnastic Societies, Benevolent Societies, or Committees, or under any other similar designation.

2. That the armed men who recently formed the Gymnastic Society will be drawn into the cadres and bans of the militia as part of the militia not on active service, that they will be solely under the control of the militia (military) authorities, and they will be governed and exercised by officers recognized and appointed by those authorities, in conformity with the Ordinances to that effect issued by his Highness, sub-Nos. 18 and 19 of the 30th and 31st October last.

3. That it is strictly prohibited that any one should designate or sign himself President, Vice-President, Member, Secretary, Clerk, &c., of such Societies or Committees, or to take any part whatever in the meetings or acts of such Societies.

4. That it is also strictly prohibited to all persons to impose or to collect taxes, tribute, or help (in money or kind), voluntary or involuntary, for such Societies or Committees, or for any other similar affair (work), without a written approval or permission from the lawful authorities.

I have no doubt, M. le Préfet, that you will devote all your activity and prudence to the prompt and exact fulfilment of these instructions, and that you will subsequently report to me what you have done (in the matter).

Accept, &c.
(Signed) G. CRESTOVITCH,
Secretary-General and Director of the Interior.

Philippopoli, February $\frac{9}{16}$, 1880.

No. 145.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 92.) *Philippopoli, February* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 24 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that on the receipt of a letter addressed to me by the Greek Consul, and of which a copy is herewith inclosed, I convened a meeting of the Consular Body the day before yesterday.

M. Matalas laid before that meeting the copy of the letter which he had addressed to Akeko Pasha on the 18th instant, calling the attention of his Excellency to a Circular which had been issued by the local Gymnastic Society, enjoining the Bulgarian peasantry to supply proof of their having contributed towards the erection of the present Greek cathedral in this town, and ordering them also, under certain penalties, to have no dealings whatever with their Greek fellow-subjects.

My Greek colleague stated that the latter order had been carried into execution in instances which he proceeded to enumerate, and he concluded by submitting for the inspection of the members of the Consular Body the original printed Circular by which those orders had been conveyed.

He explained the origin of the discrepancy between the text of the document which he now produced and that of the Circular of which he had transmitted the substance to the Governor-General. A free translation had been made to him of the latter document, which, he affirmed, had been exhibited to him, although not left in his hands. The translator had paraphrased it, and had, in fact, given the sense in which it had been read in a neighbouring village by a Bulgarian priest, alleged to have been sent for that purpose by the Bulgarian Metropolitan, Panaretos. This is why, he showed, the title of the Exarch and the mention of such penalties as excommunication, imprisonment, and punishment by the bastinado had been included in the rough translation which he had originally forwarded to the Governor-General.

The Circular which M. Matalas produced on the present occasion having been examined by the Consular Body, was pronounced to be undoubtedly authentic, and all the members of the Consular Body joined in thanking their Greek colleague for having submitted to them so important a document, the existence of which had been denied and ridiculed by the local press.

Its importance as affecting the interest of all the Governments represented at the meeting, viz., that of maintaining order and security in this province, was unanimously acknowledged, and I cannot omit to report to your Lordship that my Russian colleague was amongst the first to denounce the reprehensible character of the ostracism to which it was evidently the object of the Circular to condemn the Greek population of this province.

M. Isvolsky stated that his Government would share the common indignation which such action on the part of the Gymnastic Society must necessarily evoke. He added, in earnest terms, that his Government had always given proof of its condemnation of such proceedings, and that it was, even at the present moment, engaged in repressing them at home as well as abroad.

Before inviting my colleagues to express their opinion as to what action the Consular Body should take in the matter which had been submitted to it by M. Matalas, I suggested that since only five days had elapsed since our colleague had addressed the Governor-General, and since it was also individually known to us that the Governor-General was actually engaged in the adoption of measures for the suppression of the Secret Societies, we should be justified in advising M. Matalas to wait a few days more for the reply to which

he was undoubtedly entitled in the interest of the alarmed subjects of His Hellenic Majesty.

My colleagues unanimously joined in the expression of a similar opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

M. Matalas to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Février, 1880.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien faire convoquer, comme Doyen, le Corps Consulaire en réunion, dans laquelle j'ai à faire des communications importantes.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Consul de Grèce,
(Signé) ATH. MATALAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

M. Matalas to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

Philippopoli, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Février, 1880.

Excellence,

DEPUIS une dizaine de jours il se passe dans cette province une série d'événements extraordinaires menant la ruine et la destruction de toute la population Grecque.

On me représenta d'abord que ces persécutions avaient leur origine dans des ordres émanés de la part de Mgr. Panarète; ensuite on m'informa qu'elles découlaient du mot d'ordre des Comités déjà trop connus dans la province. A cause de cette différence j'ai évité jusqu'à ce moment de me référer officiellement et d'entretenir votre Excellence sur ces événements, et principalement parce que jusqu'aujourd'hui il ne m'a point été signalé quelque acte ayant rapport aux persécutions précitées contre aucun sujet Hellène.

Mais ayant tout dernièrement obtenu le contenu des instructions envoyées à tous les villages et dont traduction est ci-joint, je me trouve dans la nécessité de vous demander sur ce sujet les explications suivantes:

Par ces Proclamations on doit nécessairement conclure qu'à côté de l'autorité legale en vigueur il y a une seconde autorité qui, paraît-il, a le pouvoir de condamner à la bastonnade et à l'emprisonnement ceux qui transgressent ses ordres et à leur imposer des amendes comme de percevoir des impôts.

Avec l'existence d'une telle autorité et en présence de ses agissements, lesquels ne sont un mystère pour personne, on ne peut qu'arriver à la conclusion [que cette autorité agit avec le consentement du Gouvernement légal, ou bien que celui-ci se trouve dans l'impossibilité d'imposer le respect à son autorité et à la loi parmi les habitants de la province sans distinction de race et de religion.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il ne dépend pas de moi de me prononcer d'une manière ou d'une autre sur ce point. Mais comme une pareille situation dans la Roumélie Orientale peut mettre en danger les intérêts si considérables des sujets Hellènes, sans parler de ceux des Grecs indigènes, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien m'informer si par suite d'un pareil état des choses les intérêts multiples des étrangers vont être entourés d'une certaine garantie, et dans le cas contraire, si les persécutions contre les Grecs indigènes, qui ont suivi immédiatement celles dirigées par les Sociétés Gymnastiques contre la population Turque, attendront aussi les sujets Hellènes, afin que je puisse les avertir de se pourvoir à temps pour la défense de leurs intérêts.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. MATALAS.

No. 146.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 93.)

Philippopoli, February 28, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that about a week ago M. Vulcovitch placed in the hands of the Governor-General his resignation of the office of Director of Posts and Telegraphs which had been added to his otherwise strictly defined and limited duties as Director of Public Works, Agriculture, and Commerce.

The Governor-General has since proposed that the postal and telegraphic services should be attached to the Direction of Finance, but M. Schmidt has very properly refused to accept those duties. He told his Excellency that, in proposing such a transfer, the evident object of the Bulgarian party was to throw upon him the odium of recognizing as an Ottoman service that which the Bulgarians desired to retain as provincial, in violation of the Organic Statute as defined by a resolution passed by five of the Commissioners of the Great Powers.

Aleko Pasha has, therefore, not yet accepted the resignation of Dr. Vulcovitch as Director of the local Posts and Telegraphs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 147.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, February 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of an original printed copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the Philippopoli Central Committee of the Gymnastic Society, held on the 25th June last.

The original is in my possession.

I beg, in the first place, to express the pain and disappointment which I felt on discovering that the meetings of the Revolutionary Committee in question had been held at the house of Dr. Tchomakoff, a Bulgarian, who is hitherto supposed to have been persecuted by the National party, and kept out of office on account of his independence, his moderate views, and his non-connection with the Gymnastic Societies.

It appears, however, from the accompanying document, that he has all along been secretly an honorary member of the Central Committee or "Administration," and the observations which he made at the meeting of the 25th June last prove that he is one of the most zealous promoters of the Bulgarian "national interests."

I must further point out that the President of the Central Committee is the present Prefect of Philippopoli; the Treasurer, the President of the local High Court of Justice; and the Secretary, the Chief of the Chancery of the Direction of Justice.

The names of M. Matiufski and M. Munchoff are already known to your Lordship as those of the Secretary of the District Gymnastic Society, and of the printer of the Circular ordering the persecution of the Greeks, and signed by M. Matiufski.

The minutes are full of interesting particulars respecting the organization of the Central Committee and its mode of action. It states the salaries that are given to the three "effective members" of the Central Committee, viz., 500 fr. per month, and shows that the province is divided into fourteen districts, assessed at 600 fr. each, in order, probably, to cover the estimated expenditure of the Central Committee alone for the months of June, July, and August last.

It also appears that the payment of those contributions is guaranteed by ten persons in each district, who are named "guarantors" or "sureties."

The energetic manner in which contributions have recently been levied in the district of Hadji Elles, as reported in my despatch No. 37 of the 1st instant, proves that the resolutions of the Central Committee have been very effectually carried out.

There is, however, one portion of the minutes which is more especially worthy of attention.

It is stated that Messrs. Munchoff and Matiufski were instructed to communicate with the "competent official authorities," and to obtain their "co-operation and assistance" in the storing of "the cartridges ceded by the Russian authorities to the Gymnastic Societies in Southern Bulgaria."

The desire expressed by the Committee to see the funds of the Society placed in a National Bank at Sophia is in evident keeping with the order issued by the Provincial Assembly, to the effect that the public funds of the province should no longer be kept at the local branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, but confided to the hands of Provincial Treasurers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Protocol of First Meeting (at the House of Dr. Tchomakoff) of the Central Administration of the Strelets (Rifle) Gymnastic Society at Plovdiv, $\frac{13}{25}$ June, 1879.

(Translation.)

PRESENT: the three effective members: G. Konsoloff, W. Morfoff, and M. P. Ikonomoff, and one of the honorary members, Dr. S. Tchomakoff. There were also present two (members) of the District Gymnastic Society at Plovdiv: D. W. Manchoff and D. Matiufski, for certain necessary explanations. Two of the consultative members were absent: T. Iskroff Kessiakoff and J. Stephan Gueshoff.

M. Morfoff stated to those present the object of the meeting, and invited the members to proceed first to the formation of a Bureau, which, after a vote had been taken, was named as follows:—

M. G. Konsoloff, President.
„ W. Morfoff, Treasurer.
„ M. P. Ikonomoff, Secretary.

M. G. Konsoloff informed the meeting that, having some small private commercial affairs to arrange in the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, he begged the meeting to allow him to be absent for a few days, and to allow M. Morfoff to sign letters in his absence, which was necessarily accepted.

M. Manchoff communicated to the meeting two letters from the Gymnastic Society of Slivno on the subject of sentry duty ("sentries"), and the distribution in magazines of the cartridges ceded by the Russian authorities to the Gymnastic Societies in Southern Bulgaria. After an interchange of views among the members with reference to that question, it was resolved to instruct MM. Manchoff and Matiufski to go to the competent official authorities, and to request their co-operation and assistance in that matter, and to reply afterwards, by a special letter, to the Slivno Society.

All the members unanimously insisted that it was necessary to send as quickly as possible a Circular letter to all the districts, informing them of the (opening and) commencement of the activity of the Central Administration of the Strelets Gymnastic Society at Plovdiv; to send them a copy of the present first Protocol, in order to acquaint them with the *personnel* of the Central Administration, and with the quarterly Budget of the Central Administration, which Budget, after examination, was adopted as follows:—

Budget of the Central Administration of the Strelets Gymnastic Society at Plovdiv for three months—June, July, and August, 1879.

	Fr.
1. Salary to the three effective members, at 500 fr. per month, for three months ..	4,500
2. For one writer, at 200 fr. per month, for three months	600
3. For one servant for three months	180
4. Office expenses for three months	300
5. Rent of house for three months	150
6. Unforeseen expenses for three months	270
Total	6,000

[There is a gap here.]

are divided into the fourteen known districts, from each of which will be taken ten guarantors, so that each will pay into the Central Administration at Plovdiv 600 fr., or 150 silver roubles, respecting which it was resolved to write to all the districts, in order that they should pay in a part of that (money) as quickly as possible, and to intimate to the districts, in energetic terms, that they should follow out strictly, accurately, and regularly their gymnastic exercises, as well as continue to collect the remainder of the sum in arrear.

The sum already collected should be paid as quickly as possible into a bank (except such money as may be required for the expenditure of each district, and excepting also the amount which it is necessary that they should pay in to the Central Administration at Plovdiv); and as regards such a bank, the members preferred the National Bulgarian Bank, which would soon be established in the capital of the Principality of Bulgaria.

M. Morfoff announced to the meeting that he relinquished nearly all his salary for the benefit of the Society, because he had taken service in the Department of Justice, promising, at the same time, to attend the meetings most regularly; and he requested that such relinquishment (of his salary) should be entered in the cash-book as a donation on his part.

M. Manchoff proposed that, in order that the letters addressed to the Society should reach their destination, they should be addressed to him personally in a separate cover, because his printing-office was situated in a conspicuous place. Since this would be a convenience, and would facilitate the quick reception of letters, the meeting, without any dissentient voice, accepted the proposal of M. Manchoff.

Dr. Tchomakoff urgently requested those who had undertaken to edit a new journal, the "Narodni Glas," to hasten as much as possible its publication, because there was great necessity for the establishment of an organ which would, in the most energetic manner, watch over the national interests.

The meeting resolved that in future the Central Administration should use on its letters the seal of the old Administration, which seal represents a wheatsheaf and three hands holding corn.

After some further deliberation respecting the energetic action of the Administration and the necessity of a regular (military) instruction of the members of the Strelets Gymnastic Societies, the meeting was closed.

(Signed) G. KONSOLOFF.
W. MORFOFF.
M. P. IKONOMOFF.
Dr. S. TCHOMAKOFF.
D. V. MANCHOFF.
D. MATIUFSKI.

No. 148.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 95.) *Philippopoli, February 28, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE inclosed extract from the "Philippoupolis" reproduces in the French language part of a letter which appeared in the "Moscow Gazette" of the $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ January last, showing the causes by which the present unsatisfactory political condition of Bulgaria had been produced.

They are identical with those which are at present in operation in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February $\frac{16}{28}$, 1880.

DANS une longue lettre adressée de la Bulgarie à la "Gazette de Moscou" par un "Russe aux Russes" l'auteur examine les causes de l'anarchie politique qui règne dans la principauté de Bulgarie. Cet article expose que "les antagonistes du Ministère, c'est-à-dire ceux qui cherchent seulement des places lucratives, n'ont reculé devant aucun moyen d'action. Ils se sont accrochés à tout ce qui pourrait être représenté d'une manière vraisemblable contre la réputation des Ministres, et ont trompé le peuple ignorant de la façon la plus éhontée tout en caressant ses passions. Une presse sans aucune restriction, un droit illimité de rassemblement, leur ont fourni des moyens formidables pour agir parmi la masse vulgaire. Ils ont organisé un Comité Spécial dont les agents étaient des maîtres d'école dans les villes et villages, soutenus par la jeunesse du pays. Pour ceux qui ne sont pas au fait des affaires Bulgares, il pourra leur paraître étrange comment un parti n'ayant pas le pouvoir en ses mains ait pu réussir de s'organiser aussi parfaitement et d'agir avec tant de succès contre un Gouvernement disposant de tout le pouvoir dans le pays. Pour comprendre ceci il faut se rappeler que l'agitation parmi la population de la Bulgarie n'est pas chose nouvelle. Du temps encore de la nomination Turque, les agitateurs étaient bien versés quant aux moyens de soulever les esprits. Durant les dernières douze années il a fallu souvent préparer les esprits à une insurrection contre le

Gouvernement Turc si détesté. Il a été en même temps indispensable de maintenir parmi la population une excitation contre le pouvoir du clergé Grec, si contraire aux Bulgares, afin de lutter avec succès contre ce pouvoir."

No. 149.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter which has been addressed to me by Mr. T. A. Clarke, American missionary at Samakôff.

Mr. Clarke urges that the Protestants of Bansko, near Nevrokop, in Macedonia, should be allowed to establish a separate community, with the right of managing their own relations directly with the Imperial Government.

Considering the trouble to which the antagonism that exists between the Greek and Bulgarian "Orthodox" Churches in Macedonia is likely to give rise, it certainly appears desirable, even from a political point of view, to promote the interests of the Protestant Bulgarians in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 149.

The Reverend Fas. F. Clarke to Mr. Michell.

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, February 19, 1880.*

THE Protestants of Bansko, in the district of Mahomia-under-Nevrokop, wish to be separated into a distinct political community, in accordance with the Imperial Firman giving subjects of different nationalities the right to manage their own relations directly with the Imperial Government.

The present head men of the town seem to be managing pecuniary matters according to their own desires and for their own pecuniary benefit. They have entered into the account for guests entertained at the expense of the place last year the sum of 60,000 piastres. Their accounts are not open to examination, and it is supposed they have charged the losses they themselves sustained during the insurrection and abandonment of the place. The arrears of taxes are being claimed, and the poor, who have almost nothing to eat, are forced to sell even their food. I saw also other more private evidence of wrong, which calls for the establishment of a separate community. I have seen the official request made by them to the local Mudir. It contained the names of forty-eight heads of families, composed of ninety-three males and eighty-one females. A copy was also sent to the Protestant Vekil (representative) at Constantinople. I understood that an order for the formation of this separate community has been sent to the former Mudir, obtained through Sir Henry Layard on the representations made by Sir H. Drummond Wolff. The present preacher at Bansko was called by that Mudir and informed that an order had come to him for forming such a separate community, but at a subsequent interview was told that there was a mistake, that the order was for the Catholics (of whom, probably, there is not one in the Raslog Plain). It is supposed that the headmen of Bansko, in some potent way, induced the Mudir so to take back his word, and they certainly will not spare any possible means in Mahomia or Nevrokop, or in some higher place, to prevent the desired separation, which will take away from them much of their influence and power. I would plead and urge that all means possible might be used to accomplish the above separation before the 1st March (o.s.), when the account of the new year commences. This will save much wrong and suffering during the coming year.

No. 150.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of part of a leading article which appeared on the 27th instant in the "Narodni Glas."

It betrays the apprehension of the "National" party, of which it is the organ, in regard to the possible results of the evidence that has recently been obtained respecting the activity and objects of the Gymnastic Societies.

The "Narodni Glas" confesses that alongside of the Bulgarian will there is another will, and alongside of the Bulgarian (occult) power there are also other forces at work.

The "inveterate persecution" to which the article refers is evidently an allusion to the Greek population of this province, which, it is alleged with considerable truth, employs every effort to impede the realization of the Bulgarian "idea."

Complaint is also made of European diplomacy, which, under a variety of pretexts, gives the Bulgarians from time to time to understand what their political independence in reality is.

The conclusion of the article is unquestionably seditious, for it urges that with a "firm will and energy" the Bulgarians, whose fate is in their own hands, will "realize and accelerate the political independence of which their fatherland is so greatly in need." The fears of the Bulgarian National party are still further betrayed in a second article which appeared in the same number of the "Narodni Glas," and of which I have likewise the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation.

It is headed the "Committee on the Djambaz Tépé." The latter is the name of a hill or rock on which are grouped the houses of the leading Greek notables. The residence of M. Schmidt stands almost on the summit of that rock, exactly opposite to Her Majesty's Consulate-General.

The Russian Consulate-General is likewise situated in the same locality, but there is every reason to suppose that the article has no reference whatever to that establishment.

Your Lordship will readily perceive that, apart from its almost humorous character, the real object of the article is to incite the Bulgarians against the inhabitants of the rock, denounced as a nest of conspirators "from base to summit."

The Greek colony having taken alarm at the possible consequences of such an incendiary article, M. Matalas, the Hellenic Consul, addressed yesterday to the Governor-General a letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

He has called his Excellency's attention both to his previous communication on the subject of the Circular directed against the Greeks by the local Gymnastic Society, and to the article in the "Narodni Glas," headed "The Committee on the Djambaz Tépé."

M. Matalas states in that letter that, having thus directed his Excellency's attention to the proceedings of M. Manchoff and others against the Greek inhabitants of the town, he considers it his duty to hold the Government, which has hitherto shown indifference in visiting with punishment such illegal acts, responsible for all present and future action against the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

Extract from a Leading Article in the "Narodni Glas" of February $\frac{15}{27}$, 1883.

(Translation.)

A NATION without political unity, mercilessly torn asunder and severed by the Congress of Berlin, we are endeavouring to accustom ourselves to our new (form of) existence, but we see with sorrow that the slavery which has been overcome is now replaced by a more ruinous dependence; we see with sorrow that our liberty is not one and the same everywhere, that our liberty is conditional and insufficient, and that it may perhaps prove to be fruitless and useless. We see that we are not our own masters, that our independence is subject to control, just as our acts are subject to criticism. We see that alongside of our will there is another will, that alongside of our power there are also other powers. In a word, we have inherited from the Ottoman Empire the evil by which it has been undermined for many years past; as a nation without unity, we open wide the door for foreign influence, opposed to our most material interests.

If all the countries inhabited by Bulgarians had no other nationalities within them except the Bulgarian, foreign influence would not produce so much disquietude. But in our own fatherland we have as many inveterate persecutors within as without. Travel through Northern Bulgaria, travel through Eastern Roumelia and the whole of Macedonia, and you will hear, together with the Bulgarian tongue, the language of the Greeks, the Turks, the Armenians, the Wallachs, and others; you will see that, alongside of the Bulgarian idea, the development of the idea of restricting and weakening the former, and that of the enslavement of our nationality. The greatest champions of those political tendencies are amongst ourselves; at every step we take towards our political reorganization, they employ every effort to impede us; they do not wish us to make progress, they do not wish to join us in anything, they do not wish to share our labours, or to join their fate to ours in our new political life. They declare war to us; this, according to them, is the condition *sine quâ non* on which they will live with us.

In such a condition of affairs, European diplomacy continues its traditional policy in the East. Under the pretext of maintaining an equilibrium between antagonistic interests, under the pretext of defending the weaker against the stronger, under the pretext of maintaining the rights of minorities, Europe has taken us under its tutelage, and although it does not dictate the line of conduct which we should follow, it nevertheless gives us from time to time to understand what our political independence is in reality.

We do not know whether we shall ever be able to give to our national affairs such a course as would prevent foreign diplomacy from ruining and destroying us gradually.

We do not know whether all which now calls forth foreign interference in our political interests will survive much longer, but we believe that everything in future depends upon ourselves, that our fate and our future are in our own hands, and that with a firm will and energy we shall realize and accelerate the political independence of which our fatherland is so greatly in need.

Inclosure 2 in No. 150.

Extract from the "Narodni Glas" of February $\frac{15}{27}$, 1880.

(Traduction.)

Le Comité sur le Djambaz-Tépé.—Probablement nos lecteurs s'étonneront en lisant cette entête, et tout le monde tâchera d'apprendre quel est cette Comité, de qui il est composé, et quel en est le but.

Nous savions tous jusqu'à présent qu'il existait à Plovdiv seulement un Comité. C'est le Comité Permanent, prévu par le Statut Organique et qui, comme représentant de l'Assemblée Provinciale, a pour devoir de veiller à l'organisation du pays. Mais celui qui voudrait connaître de plus près ces affaires verrait qu'en sus du Comité Permanent qui siége publiquement dans l'édifice au bord de la Maritza, il y a encore un Comité qui tient des seances secrètes dans un certain rayon sur le Djambez-Tépé, et qui n'est pas moins permanent que le Comité officiel. Les personnes qui sont membres de ce Comité appartiennent aux différentes classes de la société Grecque et étrangère de Plovdiv. Il compend même des Députés. Mais ces derniers sont les ennemis jurés de nos intérêts nationaux.

Quant au but de ce Comité, c'est:—

1. De discréditer par voie de la presse le Gouvernement de notre pays et, à cette fin, de dénaturer, de prendre acte de tout ce qui est fait par le Gouvernement;

2. De représenter à l'Europe le peuple Bulgare comme barbare et incapable de se gouverner; et

3. De donner, par des intrigues infernales, des troubles, et des dissensions entre les différents éléments, un prétexte au Gouvernement Turc pour faire entrer ses troupes dans notre pays.

Nous assurons nos lecteurs que bien que ce but ne puisse être très-facilement atteint, ce Comité dispose néanmoins de grands et importants moyens. Il a acquis le droit d'expédier des informations aux agences télégraphiques Havas et Reuter; il public un journal dans le centre de Plovdiv par l'entremise duquel il décrie et calomnie le Gouvernement et notre peuple; il écrit des articles dans les journaux de Constantinople et de l'Europe contre notre Gouvernement; il envoie des Mémoires aux Ambassades et parfois des députations entières.

Nous appelons la sérieuse attention de notre respecté Gouvernement et de tout Bulgare, et nous les prions de suivre avec attention les agissements de ce Comité, qui emploie toute sorte de moyens infâmes pour atteindre son but.

Si quelqu'un doute encore de l'existence de ce Comité, il n'aura qu'à se rappeler

l'affaire de l'église St. Paraskeui pour se convaincre sans difficulté que le Djambas-Tépé, depuis sa base jusqu'à son sommet, forme le nid de ce Comité.

Et de ce même souvenir de la question de l'église St. Paraskeui, nos lecteurs sauront que cet infernal Comité a des filets qui sont tendus au dehors du Djambaz-Tépé et par conséquent qu'il sème l'intrigue et la discorde parmi la population de la province et dénigre et calomnie le peuple Bulgare. Que chaque Bulgare pense bien sur ce sujet qui est de grande importance, puisqu'il mine les fondements de notre existence et de notre avenir.

Inclosure 3 in No. 150.

M. Matalas to Aleko Pasha.

(Translation.)

Excellence, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Février*, 1880.

PAR ma lettre du $\frac{11}{23}$ Fevrier j'ai eu l'honneur de vous faire part des persécutions dont les habitants Grecs de la Roumélie Orientale sont en lutte de la part du Comité dirigeant les Sociétés Gymnastiques. En même temps je vous ai prié de bien vouloir m'informer si ces persécutions seraient étendues jusqu'aux sujets Hellènes, pour que je pusse les avertir de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour garantir leurs intérêts. Jusqu'aujourd'hui je n'ai été favorisé d'aucune réponse à ce sujet.

A part cela, le numéro d'hier du journal Bulgare, "La Voix du Peuple," sous le titre: "Comité de Djambaz-Tépé," publie un article relatif aux instructions données par les Sociétés Gymnastiques aux habitants des villages, et qui excite le peuple Bulgare à être hostile aux habitants du susdit quartier, qui sont représentés comme étant des conspirateurs contre les Bulgares.

Considérant que parmi ces habitants se trouvent des Grecs aussi bien sujets Hellènes que Rouméliotes; que les auteurs responsables de cet article sont les mêmes qui ont fait imprimer dans leur imprimerie les instructions adressées aux villages, et qui ont été encouragés à agir ainsi, comme chacun peut facilement en conclure, par l'indifférence que le Gouvernement a montré jusqu'à présent de punir leurs actes illicites, je crois de mon devoir, après avoir appelé l'attention du Gouvernement sur ces menées contre l'existence des Grecs habitant cette ville, de rendre le Gouvernement de la province responsable des agissements actuels et futurs contre les Grecs.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) A. MATALAS.

No. 151.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report which has been sent to me at my request by Mr. Consul Brophy, on the subject of the antecedents of a member of the Permanent Committee of the Provincial Assembly, who was recently appointed by Aleko Pasha President of the Criminal Court at Bourgas.

Your Lordship has already learnt by telegraph that the appointment has been cancelled, although it has appeared in the last issue of the "Maritza," together with other judicial nominations, amongst which I may mention that of the Bulgarian clerk of the local Austrian Post-Office, who can scarcely read or write, to the office of President of the Civil Tribunal at Philippopoli.

After the Privy Council had decided, on the insistance of M. Schmidt, that Vodinezaroff's appointment to Bourgas should be cancelled, it transpired that M. Crestovitch and all the other Bulgarian members of the Council, including the new Director of Justice, had all along been fully aware of the infamous character of the man whom they had sought to place at the head of the Criminal Tribunal, at the very seat of his own criminal operations.

The man in question is known to be one of the most active and prominent members of the "National Party."

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Consul Brophy to Mr. Michell.

Bourgas, February 25, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose some notes on the subject of the accusations brought against M. Vodinezaroff, the Deputy for Aïdos.

Amongst the respectable class of Bulgarians in that town there is a deep feeling of indignation against him, and I believe that an impartial inquiry would easily succeed in arriving at the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Memorandum referring to the Accusations made against M. Vodinezaroff, Deputy for the Canton of Aïdos.

During the month of September 1879, M. Petroff, then Prefect of Bourgas, replied to an official communication received from Philippopoli that M. Vodinezaroff, then Bailli of the Canton of Aïdos, was suspected by common report of having been the instigator of the raids made by Bulgarians upon Turkish villages, and of being the real cause of the murder of Anton, a Lieutenant of the Aïdos police, &c.

In consequence of this report by M. Petroff, a certain Senezeff, then, as now, préposé des Finances at Slimnia (Slivno), was sent to Aïdos with instructions to make a thorough examination as to the charges brought against M. Vodinezaroff.

The examination by M. Senezeff seems to have been well carried out, as he said to M. Calaroff, a colleague, that if he showed the evidence he had collected, Vodinezaroff would probably be hung, and repeated the substance of this statement to Czakir Dimitri, son of Photi, Chorbadgi of Aïdos.

During the examination made by M. Senezeff, the Bulgarian peasants of Gutchuk Chengui, Aïdos, Pirau, &c., said to Vodinezaroff, "You told us to go and plunder the Turkish villages, that a third was for you, a third for us, and a third for something unknown, but perhaps the Slimnia Committee."

On at least one of these occasions the Doctor of the Municipality, a Bulgarian named Petri Georghieff, was present, and will, I believe, testify to what he heard and saw.

M. Senezoff's Report never, as far as I can learn, reached the authorities at Philippopoli. From Bulgarian sources—and the accusations against M. Vodinezaroff are in nine cases out of ten brought forward and supported by Bulgarians—I am informed that the documents incriminating Vodinezaroff were suppressed by the influence of the Slimnia "Committee."

Dr. Georghieff, whom I have previously mentioned, told me that he conscientiously believed Vodinezaroff to have instigated the murder of Anton, the Lieutenant of police, and I have just heard that Anton's brothers, Atanaz and Dimitri, openly accuse Vodinezaroff, and affirm that they can prove his complicity.

The most of the respectable Bulgarians of Aïdos are most anxious that M. Vodinezaroff, as "a disgrace to their nation," should be punished, and little difficulty will be found in procuring evidence against him if the Commission sent to Aïdos be composed of honest men.

I should recommend—

1. Examinations of all papers relative to this affair sent by Bourgas to Philippopoli.

2. Examination, on oath, of Dr. Petri Georghieff, of Aïdos; Kara Hafiz Effendi, of Bourgas; Tchakir Dimitri, of Aïdos; Senezeff, of Slimnia; the two brothers (above-mentioned) of the Lieutenant Anton.

3. That Rozil and Manol, lately police officers of Aïdos, should be again arrested on the same accusations for which they were imprisoned, but released without sentence or acquittal.

If these recommendations be complied with, I believe that the guilt of M. Vodinezaroff will be fully proved.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY, *Consul.*

No. 152.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 88.)

Rome, March 5, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 17 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a *note verbale*, embodying the proposal of Her Majesty's Government with a view to arriving at a settlement of the Greek Frontier question, which I placed in Count Maffei's hands yesterday morning. Before doing so I read to him the previous part of your Lordship's telegram explaining the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the proposal made by the French Government in December last, the grounds upon which they considered the appointment of a Commission necessary, and stating that the present proposal had been agreed upon with the French Government.

Count Maffei informed me that the French Ambassador had called two days before to say that the French Government had come to an understanding with Her Majesty's Government upon this proposal, which would be shortly communicated to that of Italy. He said that he would immediately submit it to M. Cairoli, and let me know his Excellency's answer, which he had no doubt would be an acceptance.

In the evening I received a note from Count Maffei, stating that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had desired him to say that "le Gouvernement du Roi accepte, pour ce qui le concerne, la méthode suggérée par l'Angleterre, espérant qu'on arrive ainsi à une prompte solution de la question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Note Verbale.

THE Turkish and Greek Governments having failed apparently to come to an agreement contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government are willing, in concert with the other Powers, to offer their mediation, in order to facilitate negotiations, and for the purpose of determining the precise frontier which the Powers should recommend, they propose the following arrangement:—

A Boundary Commission composed of Commissioners nominated by the Signatories of the Treaty, shall study and determine on the spot the line best suited to form a new frontier between the two countries. They shall take for the bases of their deliberations the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, and, without being bound by the general geographical indications given therein, they shall loyally act in the spirit, and conform themselves to the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries at that sitting of the Congress. They shall decide, by a majority of the votes, upon the precise frontier best fitted to carry that policy into effect, and Her Majesty's Government will join in recommending to the disputant Powers the frontier which the Commission shall in this manner determine.

Rome, March 4, 1880.

No. 153.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopoli, March 11, 1880.

PERSECUTION of Greeks increasing. Two Greeks have exhibited to me wounds and contusions inflicted near Panaghorishte by four Bulgarians carrying swords and Martini rifles, with which they fired volley of blank cartridge. The Greeks were then bound, dreadfully beaten, and robbed. The Bulgarians regard them as excommunicated. The Bulgarian Committee at Stanimaka sells trading licences to favoured Greeks. In some cases Bulgarians have obtained dispensations to enter shops and inns kept by Greeks.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 154.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 11, 1880.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has given me a memorandum or *mémoire* in reply to my urgent representations as to the danger of refusing to accept your proposal for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question, which he requests me to submit to you for the purpose of an official exchange of views, and to recommend it to your kind consideration and sense of justice. It points out the deplorable effect which the presence of a European Commission for the object proposed would have upon a population loyal to the Sultan, but worked by Hellenic intrigues, and incited to demand annexation by numerous Greek subjects and emissaries of the Greek Government. Troubles would ensue in a country which has long been a prey to agitation, and soon, with the help of armed bands coming from Greece, the most sanguinary conflicts would be provoked. His Excellency asks whether, in case the Powers do not perceive the uselessness and danger of proposed Commission, Porte would not be fulfilling, in the eyes of Her Majesty's Government, an imperative and sacred duty in preventing the evil and in protecting, by its just objections to proposal and by its refusal to accept it, the population of this part of the Sultan's dominions.

No. 155.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12, 5 P.M.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 12, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me whether your Lordship proposes that there should be a Turkish member on the Greek Frontier Commission.

If there is to be a Turk, he thinks that Greece should also in some way be represented.

No. 156.

Lord Tenterden to Major-General Sir E. Hamley.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1880.*

LORD TENTERDEN presents his compliments to Sir Edward Hamley, and by Lord Salisbury's direction transmits to him herewith the documents, noted in the margin, relating to the question of the Turco-Persian Boundary.*

No. 157.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February 10, 1880.*

SHORTLY after my return to Prisrend I called on Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, the Vali of Monastir, who is now at Prisrend with eleven battalions of Redifs.

During a lengthened interview I had with his Excellency I mentioned that, as far as Prisrend was concerned, an important change for the better was noticeable, and that what struck me most on entering the town was the total absence of arms among the population.

His Excellency informed me that some time back an attack had been contemplated by the mountain tribes, and that he had found it necessary to adopt precautions in order to prevent a surprise.

* Memorandum, No. 2136, January 10, 1873; ditto, Nos. 2585 and 2586, April 2, 1875; Mr. Layard, No. 369, March 19, 1878; Map of the Turco-Persian Boundary, showing the position of Khotur and the boundary in "silver ink" proposed by Sir A. Kemball and Colonel Zekeni.

With regard to Gusinjé, his Excellency informed me that he was endeavouring to pacify the Albanians, and that he hoped in time to induce them to offer no further obstacles to the carrying out of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin; but, he said, the Albanians are a difficult people to deal with, who prefer fighting to talking. Were he to put on pressure he would meet with considerable resistance, and probably cause the whole country to rise up in arms against him.

His Excellency expressed a hope that the Prince of Montenegro would not precipitate matters, and that His Highness would give him time to settle the question peaceably, without effusion of blood.

He further stated that the constant presence of Montenegrin troops on the frontier was irritating the Albanians, and placing difficulties in the way of a peaceful solution.

I then mentioned that a rumour had been current to the effect that four of his battalions had been disarmed by the Albanians, and asked him whether there was any foundation for such a report. He replied that the facts of the case had been exaggerated, although it was true that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to disarm two battalions in the vicinity of Novi-Bazar.

I then led the conversation to the case of the Hodja Abdul Effendi, who had been arrested by his orders at Uskup, and conveyed a prisoner to Salonica. His Excellency informed me that Abdul Effendi was the ringleader of the revolutionary party in Albania, that he was continually inciting the people to revolt, and that, during the meeting of the Albanian League at Prisrend last year, he had made himself prominent by the violence of his speeches, an account of which formed the subject of my despatch to your Lordship No. 21 of last October.

Though Moukhtar Pasha, with eleven battalions billeted on the inhabitants, has succeeded in establishing order, public security, and his own safety at Prisrend, he appears to be doing little or nothing for the neighbouring districts, and, from what I hear, seems much more occupied with crushing an embryo insurrection than with settling the Gusinjé difficulty.

The few persons I have as yet seen give a most distressing account of the country in general.

At Jakova the Roman Catholic clergy, who were in imminent danger of their lives, have closed their church and fled to Prisrend; and throughout the country robberies and murders are being committed as heretofore.

Strange to say, Moukhtar Pasha has not as yet ventured outside the town, though his mission to this place was generally supposed to be for the establishment of order in the adjoining districts, and the surrender of Gusinjé to the Montenegrins.

It is evident now, and he makes no secret of it, that the task is beyond his power, for he openly avows that he does not intend to run the risk of setting Turk against Turk, and shedding Mussulman blood for such a cause.

Whether he is acting under orders or on his own responsibility, no reliance can be placed in him.

He is now accused of attempting to gain over the Albanians with the view to obtaining their support and co-operation in some future scheme.

A rumour has just reached me that Government stores, intended for the relief of the starving population of Jakova, are being issued to those only who should consent to oppose the annexation of Gusinjé to Montenegro.

These facts, if true, suffice to show that a system of deception and double dealings is carried on calculated to mislead those who place unreserved confidence in the good faith of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 158.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February 11, 1880.*

PREVIOUS to my return to Prisrend I had formed a resolution to make myself well acquainted with the condition of the Christian population in this district, and, in the event of a continuation of the persecutions that existed last year, to make strong representations to Moukhtar Pasha whenever a case of gross injustice or maltreatment

should be brought to my notice, as I had entertained a hope that his Excellency the Vali of Monastir, with his eleven battalions, had been sent here by the Turkish Government for the double purpose of consigning Gusinjé to Montenegro and putting an end to the lawless proceedings of the Albanians; but on my arrival I found matters far different to what I had anticipated—the condition of the people, if anything, rather worse than before, and Moukhtar Pasha incompetent or unwilling to set matters right, or, if willing, destitute of the necessary means for want of money.

I have been informed that his arrival, about six weeks back, had produced a perfect panic among the most lawless characters in the district, many of which fled to the mountains, whilst others sought protection among the very Christians whom hitherto they had been in the habit of persecuting; but, it is said, they soon discovered Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha to be too staunch a Turk to wish that they should be brought to justice for their former delinquencies, and therefore, gaining courage and confidence by his non-interference, they soon returned to pursue, with renewed vigour, their former proceedings.

As an instance I may mention a case, already alluded to in my despatch of yesterday's date, in which the Roman Catholic clergy of Jakova were threatened with assassination, and had to fly to Prisrend, where the presence of a Consular Corps afforded them protection.

The facts were brought to the notice of the Vali by Monsignor Crarer, Archbishop of Icopia, residing at Prisrend, with a request that the affair might be investigated and the guilty parties brought to justice. No attention having been paid to this representation, a second was sent, which Moukhtar Pasha declined to receive.

It is evident, therefore, that any efforts I might make on behalf of persecuted Christians would probably meet with the very same result as that of the Archbishop. Indeed, the deaf ear that my complaints met at Constantinople, and the attempt on the part of the authorities to refute the charges brought against them by me, though I had the support of Her Majesty's Ambassador, clearly show that a predetermination exists that the present state of things shall continue, and that no advice, however friendly, or complaints, however just, shall be listened to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 159.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Prisrend, February 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the threatened assassination of the Roman Catholic clergy at Jakova, I have been able to gather the following facts:—

Some ten months back, while a wedding feast was being celebrated in the house of my informant (a Roman Catholic of Jakova), a shot was fired at the door.

The inmates and guests, among whom were several Mussulmans, at once rushed out and confronted a number of Turks, whose indignation arose at not being asked to the feast.

An altercation having taken place, one of the latter fired and wounded my informant in the shoulder. Upon this an affray began, in which a Mussulman and a Christian were killed.

The result gave rise to a blood-feud. My informant and his family had to seek the protection of Ali Ibra, the Chief who had rendered the Christians such good service after the massacre of Mehemet Ali, in whose house they remained four months, after which they came to Prisrend for greater security. In the meantime my informant's house at Jakova was burnt down by order of Hassan Agá, the Chief of the Gendarmerie (mentioned in my despatch No. 17 of the 2nd October last year), assassinated a month ago.

Now the Mussulmans of Jakova not only threaten the lives of twenty of the laity but also those of the clergy who, having reported these facts to their Archbishop, received instructions to fly to Prisrend, where they were soon followed by all who possessed the necessary means. The condition of the unfortunate people left behind is truly appalling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 160.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Prisrend, February 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been devising a plan by which I hope the condition of the Catholic clergy and the Christian inhabitants of Jakova may be ameliorated, and their safety secured.

Your Lordship will remember that after the assassination of Mehemet Ali a massacre of the Christians in that locality was averted by the timely intervention of Ali Ibra, a powerful Chief, with whom last autumn I had a long and very friendly interview.

On my return to Prisrend, a few days ago, I received a message from Ali Ibra, expressing a desire to see me, but stating that the presence of Moukhtar Pasha, owing to his tribe having been implicated in the assassination of Mehemet Ali, made it unsafe for him to come to Prisrend.

It struck me at once that if his safety could be secured, and an interview obtained, he might prove a most valuable ally, and that I could easily prevail upon him to take the Christians under his special protection. In order, however, to facilitate matters, it would be necessary that he should act with the approval and support of the authorities.

I therefore, to-day, obtained an interview of Moukhtar Pasha, to whom, after frankly stating the object of my visit, I pointed out that the Jakova difficulty ought to be settled as speedily as possible.

His Excellency at once entered into my views, begged me to send for Ali Ibra, and expressed a wish to see him.

"It would be strange," he said, "if, after all my unsuccessful efforts to communicate directly with these Chiefs, I should attain my object through you—a stranger, and only a few days here. I have no doubt," he added, "that if you can persuade Ali Ibra to come and see me other Chiefs will follow, and my work here will thereby be greatly facilitated; for without their assistance my mission would be a difficult one."

I have now sent for Ali Ibra, and hope to see him here in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 161.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Prisrend, February 18, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING a long interview I had the other day with Moukhtar Pasha on the affairs of Albania his Excellency gave me to understand that for the settlement of the Gusinjé question and the re-establishment of authority in this province two courses were open to him. One was pressure and the other persuasion. "But," he said, "in order to carry out efficaciously the former method I must have sufficient troops. These must be at least well fed and clothed, and I must be supported by a strong Government. Whereas the troops under my orders have arrears of pay due to them, are badly fed, ill clothed, and the Government is weak and unable to supply me with the necessary funds. My only alternative, therefore, is persuasion. This course I have now adopted, and I hope in time to succeed."

Various rumours have been current here to the effect that he is doing nothing; that a secret understanding exists between him and the Albanians to throw every obstacle in the way of a speedy settlement of the Gusinjé question; that he is encouraging the Arnauts by supplying them with arms, ammunition, and stores. But, if that were true, how is it that he has not acquired the confidence of the Chiefs? And, though he has made several attempts, according to his own admission, he has signally failed.

Moreover, he has received friendly warnings to the effect that, if the Gusinjé difficulty were not speedily settled, it might soon be too late. All he asks now is

more time, and to be allowed the opportunity of pacifying the Albanians without having to resort to extreme measures.

It is Moukhtar Pasha's opinion that the existing unwillingness to conform to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin arises more from an innate hatred towards the Montenegrins than from any material loss that would be sustained by the surrender of valuable pasture-land; and that the proposed new frontier running along the summits of the mountains, once in the hands of the Montenegrins, would seriously compromise the safety of Jakova and Ipek.

His Excellency further stated that a spirit of opposition existed chiefly at Gusinjé and the above-mentioned town, and that his present object is to prevent it spreading.

Whether Moukhtar Pasha is sincere in all his remarks, and can be trusted, must now soon transpire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 162.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 30. Political.)
Scutari, February 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that at Cettinjé no trust is placed in the desire of the Porte to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the negotiations about the exchange for Gusinjé-Plava.

The Montenegrin Government continues its preparations for hostilities in the spring, but these may be only intended for defence, as it cannot be ignorant of the openly-declared intention of the Albanians to attack the Principality as soon as the season is sufficiently advanced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 163.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 31. Political.)
Scutari, February 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, from what I learn from trustworthy sources, resistance will most undoubtedly be offered by the North Albanians to any attempt to surrender to Montenegro the smallest portion of territory on the western side of Lake Scutari.

To-day the Chiefs of the Roman Catholic tribe of Hoti called on me and informed me that, having learnt that negotiations have been going on for the cession of a portion of their mountains instead of Gusinjé, they wish it to be known that, although they are badly treated by the Sultan's authorities, they will die to the last man rather than submit to the Slavs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 164.

Mr. Fenton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 24.)
The Hague, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that M. Callimaki Catargi, the Roumanian Representative at Paris, arrived at the Hague a few days ago, accompanied by a Secretary of Legation and a Military Attaché, on a special mission to this Court.

He was received yesterday by the King of the Netherlands at a formal audience, when he presented to His Majesty a letter from the Prince of Roumania announcing the

recognition of the independence of that State by the European Powers; and M. Callimaki Catargi, at the same time, delivered to His Majesty, in the name of the Prince, the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. FENTON.

No. 165.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 1.)
Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, March 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following observations with reference to the cession of Kotour to Persia:—

1. Regular maps* on a sufficient scale were made by the Commission of 1849-55, and on these a line of frontier was marked by Sir A. Kemball and General Zelinoi, members of the Mixed Commission. In that part of this line which defines the territory of Kotour no difference of opinion appears to have existed,† and it is said by Sir A. Kemball‡ to represent the adjustment of conflicting claims, which both of them could assent to. The maps so marked are now at Constantinople.

2. The Treaty of Berlin prescribes that the territory to be ceded shall be "such as it has been determined by the Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission."

3. The representative of Turkey at the Congress was ready to agree to the decision, whenever it should be come to, of the Anglo-Russian Commissioners.

4. The Persian Ambassador is believed to be also ready to accept their award.

5. Nothing, therefore, was wanting to a settlement of this question in 1878 but a formal completion of the work of the Anglo-Russian Commissioners.

6. It is evident that a decision which did not agree with theirs would not satisfy the condition prescribed in 2.

7. The present Russian Commissioner for the Asiatic frontier is the same officer who was associated with Sir A. Kemball. It is to be presumed that he will abide by his former decision, and that it is what his Government approve.

8. I would therefore suggest that I should accept entirely the frontier of the territory of Kotour, as already agreed to by him and Sir A. Kemball; and that General Zelinoi and myself should complete at Constantinople the work of the former Commission, so far as it concerns the frontier of the territory of Kotour, by affixing our signatures to a map on which it is laid down, and to an accompanying Report to be framed by us, when there is every reason to suppose that the Turkish and Persian Governments will give their assent, and the work will be at once concluded.

9. With regard to the merits of the frontier line agreed to, it appears to be open to no objection from any quarter. It embraces not only the valley described by the Sepeh Salur§ as what Persia claims, but a belt of barren mountains round it, uninhabited, and offering no temptation to an advance on either side; while the line itself, passing along the watershed of a snowy range, is a natural frontier, needing no additional demarcation, unless at the passes.

10. Part of the territory of Kotour was ceded formally to Persia on the 25th January, 1879, and a Persian garrison placed in the town. It is possible that few or no Turkish troops remain in the part which still appears to be claimed by Persia, and which would, I imagine, be left to her if the Turks were to accept the line in question; and it may be assumed that only the concluding formalities are wanting to complete the settlement.

I would, therefore, suggest that the Russian Government be requested to empower its Commissioner to join with me in completing the said part of the work of the former Commission, of which he was a member; and that, at the same time, the Turkish Government be invited to give its assent, and the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople to appoint a Delegate for a like purpose. If these preliminaries were agreed to before my arrival at Constantinople the business might be completed in a single meeting, and the ground cleared, in the most favourable manner, for the other business of the Commission.

I should not have thought it necessary to offer these suggestions if a general impression did not appear to have prevailed, with the Turkish Government and others concerned,

* Copies in Foreign Office.
† Major Clarke's Memorandum, July 6, 1879.
‡ October 30, 1878.
§ February 24, 1879.

that the Commission would proceed to the ground in order to settle the frontier in question. But, in my view, not only would this extended expedition, involving great expense of time and money, be useless, because adding nothing to the existing means of settling the question, but worse than useless, as invalidating and upsetting the agreement already come to by General Zelinoi and Sir A. Kemball, preventing the literal fulfilment of Article LX of Treaty of Berlin which is otherwise possible, and throwing open again the whole of this complicated question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 166.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 12, 1880.

GREEK Minister at Constantinople has informed his Government that at a Council of Ministers held yesterday at the Porte the Franco-British proposal for a Commission to trace a new frontier between Greece and Turkey, which had been communicated by the British Ambassador at Constantinople, was unanimously rejected.

With reference to this intelligence, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs does not understand how the Turkish Government pretend to reject the mode, when they have accepted the principle of mediation by their signature of the Treaty of Berlin.

(Copy to Constantinople.)

No. 167.

The Heads of the Greek, Armenian, Protestant, and Jewish Communities to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 13, 2 P.M.)

(Télégraphique.) *Aleppo, March* 13, 1880, 12·3 P.M.

MALGRÉ assistance bienveillante déployée par Mr. Henderson, Consul Anglais, par suite funeste famine menaçant pays, espérons, Excellence, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, dans sa charité habituelle, voudra nous assister aussi dans circonstances critiques au milieu desquelles se trouve notre pauvre pays.

(Signé) CHERIK ALI, *Archevêque Grec*, THEODORUS *Archevêque Arménien*, MATHEOS, *Pasteur Protestant*, GARABET, *Grand Rabbin Haron*.

No. 168.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 2 P.M.

YOURS No. 38.

The prevailing opinion seems to be that only the mediating Powers should take part in the Commission.

I should have preferred to admit the Turk, but France and Germany take the opposite view; and there seems no chance of the Turk himself agreeing to sit.

No. 169.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.[a]

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 2·10 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have decided to appoint Major-General Sir E. Hamley to be their Commissioner for the demarcation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, in place of Colonel Clarke. Please inform the Russian Government, and inquire when it is proposed that the Commission should meet again.

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[a] A similar telegram was addressed to Sir A. H. Layard.

No. 170.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 25. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 2·15 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 24, you might mention to the Russian Government that General Hamley's appointment has been made in order to be agreeable to them, and that we hope their Commissioner will receive instructions to be conciliatory, and not to raise unnecessary difficulties.

No. 171.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 2·40 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 110.

Send *pro-memorid* by earliest opportunity.

No. 172.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 3 P.M.

WE should have been glad if Turkey could have been represented on Commission; but it is not likely to be agreed to by Powers; and in strictness only the mediating Powers have a right to be present.

No. 173.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

I AGREE that in strictness the Commission should consist only of mediating Powers; and the proposal has been communicated to the Turk for the purpose of obtaining his permission to go on the ground, and the requisite protection.

I should have preferred, if it had been possible, that he should have taken part, for the sake of arriving at an amicable result; but I see no chance of that arrangement being accepted.

I have had no official intimation of the Turk's refusal.

No. 174.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 92.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reply to M. de Giers' inquiry whether it is proposed that a Turkish Commissioner shall sit on the new Commission for the delimitation of the Greek frontier, I have informed your Excellency by telegraph this afternoon that some of the other Powers who have been consulted upon the question appear to incline to the opinion that only the mediating Powers should take part in the operations of the Commission.

Her Majesty's Government would have been disposed to admit a Turkish Commissioner, but an opposite view is taken by France and Germany, and there seems to be but little probability that the Porte will consent to name a Delegate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 175.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 110.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 28), in which you state that Baron Haymerle has asked whether Her Majesty's Government proposes that there should be a Turkish Commissioner in the Greek Frontier Commission, and has expressed the opinion that, if this is to be the case, Greece should in some way be represented in it. I have informed you in reply by telegraph that we consider that, in strictness, the only Powers who have a right to be represented would be those to which the mediation is assigned by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin; but that we should, nevertheless, have been glad if Turkey could have been also represented, had there been any probability of such an arrangement being accepted by the Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 99.) *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 11th instant (No. 21), in which you state that Prince Bismarck accepts the proposal for settling the question of the Greek frontiers by a Commission which will examine it on the spot; but that having learnt from Constantinople that the proposal is rejected by the Porte, he wishes to know whether it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government that Turkey should be represented in the Commission, it appearing to him that she is precluded by the terms of Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin from taking part in the mediation in which he understands it to be proposed that those Powers should engage who are specially mentioned in the Article.

I concur in the view, that the Commission should in strictness consist only of the mediating Powers. The object of communicating this proposal at Constantinople has been to obtain the permission of the Turkish Government for the Commissioners to go on the ground, and the protection which will be required to enable them to do their work. If it had been possible, we should have preferred that Turkey should have taken part in the Commission, as her doing so might have facilitated an amicable result from its labours, but there does not seem to be any chance of the acceptance of such an arrangement.

No official intimation of the rejection of the proposal by the Porte has been received by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 177.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 113.) *Pera, March* 13, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires, acting upon instructions from his Government, has demanded condign punishment of the assassin of Russian Colonel attached to the Embassy. Sultan hesitates to comply, alleging that he is insane. Russian Chargé d'Affaires has written privately to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to say that if the man is not executed within a reasonable delay he will be compelled to suspend his relations with the Porte.

No. 178.

The Comité de Secours to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)

Alep, le 13 *March*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

CONJOINTEMENT aux pauvres d'Alep remercions vivement le concours charitable de Mr. Henderson, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique. Espérons, Excellence, que le Gouvernement Impérial veuille nous prêter ses bienveillants secours durant triste famine dominant pays.

No. 179.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 35. Confidential.) *Sophia, March* 2, 1880.

My Lord,

COUNT KHEVENHÜLLER told me the other day that he had learnt that the Bulgarian Government have recently purchased 100,000 breechloading rifles, and that the work of converting the muzzle-loaders taken from the Turks is being actively carried on at a small arsenal near Rustchuk, which existed formerly, but has since been enlarged.

It is not very clear what purpose these arms are to serve, or from where the money for their purchase in the present state of the Bulgarian Treasury is to come, but Count Khevenhüller, whose opportunities for procuring information on such subjects are much greater than mine, has promised to keep me informed of anything he may discover hereafter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 180.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 36.) *Sophia, March* 2, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING been informed by Mr. Dalziel that a quantity of silver had been brought to Rustchuk at the time of the Prince's passing through that town, and had been sent thence by rail to Varna for shipment to Odessa, I made inquiries here as to the source from which this money was derived and as to its destination, it having been reported to be the first instalment of the indemnity owing to Russia for the maintenance of her troops during the occupation.

I have learnt that the sum in question, 6,000,000 francs, was left here by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff on his departure, and that it had been appropriated in the first instance by the Russians from the public chests at Adrianople, Philippopoli, and other places, previous to the evacuation.

Such is the version of the affair given by M. Natchovitz, but there is a good deal of mystery hanging about it, and his Excellency showed great disinclination to be more explicit, and seemed rather annoyed at its having become known.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 181.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 38.) *Sophia, March* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Lordship this day that the Mixed Commission for the settlement of Mussulman claims had at length abandoned its pretension to demand the legalization of Mussulman title-deeds by the Bulgarian Mayors.

This result, however, has not been obtained without difficulty and great opposition on the part of the Commission, and a brief account of what has taken place since I addressed to M. Natchovitz the note, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 24 of the 8th ultimo, may be of interest to your Lordship.

My note remained unanswered until the 16th ultimo, when M. Natchovitz called on me, and, after excusing himself for not having given me a written answer, as I had requested, on the plea of the lack of employés capable of drawing up a reply in French, his Excellency stated that strict orders had been given to the Commission to renounce their pretension, or to send in their resignation. I replied that I would have preferred a written answer, but as this could not be, would his Excellency authorize me to inform your Lordship that the question of the Certificates ("Shaadet Namés") might be considered as settled in the manner which justice required, and his Excellency declared that he authorized me to make this communication to your Lordship.

As I have learnt by experience that the orders of the Bulgarian Government are not invariably obeyed with alacrity by its subordinates, I deferred making any communication to your Lordship until I had learnt the result of these fresh orders.

On the 24th ultimo a Mussulman called and informed me that he had that morning presented his title-deeds, all of old date and in original, to the Commission, who had stated that they must be accompanied by the "Shaadet Namés," and in proof of this he handed me a paper to the above effect, signed by a certain Kovatchev, Secretary to the Commission.

The next day I called on his Excellency, and asked him whether I had rightly understood him to say at our last interview that the question of the "Shaadet Namés" was settled. His Excellency having said that I had, I asked him, in that case, to explain the paper signed by M. Kovatchov, and to inform me by what right this person ventured to oppose the decision of the Minister of the Interior. I also stated that I was placed in a disagreeable position towards your Lordship by having to contradict one day the statements which I had made, on the faith of his Excellency's assertions, on the other.

His Excellency, on reading the paper, showed considerable irritation, and, after using rather strong language with reference to the members of the Commission, promised to go directly to M. Grecov and insist on his Excellency either causing his orders to be obeyed, or dismissing the Commission.

Three or four days after, hearing that nothing had been done, I wrote to M. Natchovitz a private letter (copy inclosed), stating that I was unable to call on him that day; that I had been informed that the Commission was triumphant; but that after what he had told me I could hardly believe that this was true.

I have the honour to inclose copy of his Excellency's reply, dated the 15th ultimo, and I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that, from then till to-day, as I have learnt from Mussulmans interested, on their presenting their title-deeds the "Shaadet Namés" have not been required.

I hope that this question may now be allowed to rest, and that there will be no recurrence to a system invented for the purpose of annoying the Mussulmans, and which has only been practised here and at Tirnovo, but what has passed will show your Lordship the weakness of the Bulgarian Executive, which, during two months, has been unable to obtain the revision by a Commission named by itself of a Decree the legality of which it has never ventured to defend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 181.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

(Particulière.) *Sophia, ce 27 Janvier*, 1880.

Cher M. Natchovitz,

ETANT occupé à faire mon courrier je ne pense pas me donner le plaisir de venir chez vous cet après-midi; je vous serai donc bien obligé si vous aurez la bonté de me faire savoir par le porteur de la présente où en est l'affaire des "Shaadet Namés." On vient de me dire que la Commission est triomphante. Après ce que vous m'avez dit lors de notre dernière entrevue j'ai de la peine à croire que ce bruit soit fondé, mais je voudrais bien savoir à quoi m'en tenir, pour pouvoir donner des renseignements à mon Gouvernement.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 181.

M. Natchovitz to Mr. Ashburnham.

M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Février*, 1880.

J'AI remis votre billet à M. Grecov qui a aussitôt envoyé son Chef de Section pour se persuader si la communication qui vous a été faite est véridique. Dans le cas affirmatif, M. Grecov est décidé à renvoyer cette Commission et à en constituer une autre.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) G. NATCHOVITZ.

No. 182.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March 4*, 1880.

YESTERDAY being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the Czar was observed here as a national holiday, by order of the Civil Governor. I have the honour to inclose translation of the programme for the day, which was sent to the Diplomatic Body as well as to the Bulgarians.

As I found that none of my colleagues intended to be present at the religious service held at the cathedral, but would confine themselves to calling on M. Counany in ordinary dress to offer their congratulations, I pursued the same course.

In the evening, as usual, the town was illuminated, and a band of music paraded the town playing the Russian National Anthem. The day before the fête the inhabitants were ordered, by means of the Public Crier, to close their shops during the day and open them during the night, under pain of a fine of 50 roubles in the event of non-compliance, and the enthusiasm displayed by the Bulgarians can, therefore, hardly be considered quite spontaneous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Notification.

A L'OCCASION du vingt-cinquième anniversaire de l'accession au Trône de Sa Majesté l'Empereur-Libérateur, la Municipalité de la capitale propose à toute la population de Sophia de célébrer le mieux possible ce jour de triomphe, orner pendant le jour les maisons et les boutiques avec des fleurs et des drapeaux, et illuminer le soir.

Programme.

1. L'office commencera à 9 heures et demie.
2. A 11 heures la procession, chantant l'hymne en chœur, se dirigera vers la Cour.
3. Par ordre du Ministre de la Guerre, l'armée sera rangée devant la Cour et la musique rencontrera la procession, en jouant l'hymne "Col Slav."
4. Après le *Te Deum*, la procession retournera dans le même ordre.
5. Après la cérémonie l'armée s'en ira.
6. Le courant de la journée sera célébré, les maisons ornées, et le soir il y aura illumination complète.

No. 183.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 6*, 1880.

M. CONSTANTIN ESARCO delivered to the King on the 4th instant his letters of credence as Minister-Resident of the Prince of Roumania to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 184.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 118.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 37 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which I have received from Prince Gortchakow on the subject of the frontier dispute between Turkey and Greece.

His Highness states that the Russian Government is willing to appoint a Delegate on the Commission proposed by England, provided that all the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin do the same.

The Russian Delegate would, Prince Gortchakow adds, support such arrangements as might be considered by the Great European Powers most advantageous to Greece.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Prince Gortchacow to the Earl of Dufferin.

St. Petersburgh, le 26 *Février*, 1880.

M. le Comte,

EN réponse à la note de votre Excellence en date du 4 Mars, je m'empresse de l'informer que le Cabinet Impérial est prêt à s'associer à toute démarche concertée entre les Grandes Puissances ayant pour but d'aplanir les difficultés existantes erte la Turquie et la Grèce au sujet de la délimitation des frontières indiquées par le Traité de Berlin.

Le Cabinet Impérial est en conséquence tout disposé à nommer un Délégué à la Commission de Délimitation suggérée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique si toutes les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin adhèrent à cette proposition.

Quant à la part qu'y prendrait le Délégué de la Russie, le Cabinet Impérial ne peut que répéter ce que le Premier Plénipotentiaire Russe a déclaré en Congrès de Berlin, à savoir, que tout avantage que l'Europe jugerait possible d'accorder à la Grèce rencontrera notre plein assentiment.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

No. 185.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 121. Confidential.) *Berlin, March* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs called on me to-day to tell me that, according to information just received from Constantinople, the Porte had rejected your Lordship's proposal for the appointment of a Commission for the settlement of the Turco-Greek frontier under Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

Now Prince Bismark, His Excellency said, while accepting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, and without wishing to raise any question on the part of Germany, wished to know for his own guidance, whether your Lordship intended that Turkey should be represented at all in the proposed Commission, since it appeared to him that Article XXIV excluded Turkey from taking any part in the mediation by the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 186.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March* 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{2 \text{ Février}}$ 1880.

Monsieur,

FAISANT suite à ma Circulaire du 23 Janvier, 1880, et pour les renseignements que je vous donne sur l'état déplorable de la Thessalie, je crois nécessaire d'ajouter que d'après un Rapport de M. Coundouriotis, l'Archevêque de Larissa a adressé une lettre à sa Sainteté le Patriarche Œcuménique, dans laquelle il expose les vexations auxquelles les Chrétiens sont en butte.

Copie de cette lettre nous a été confidentiellement communiquée, et voici dans quels termes l'Archevêque s'explique sur la situation actuelle de la Thessalie :—

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman, sans aucun égard à la disette, qui a regné cette année, emploi les mesures les plus violentes contre les habitants pour les forcer à payer des impôts arriérés. Une quantité de familles sont réduites à l'état de mendicité, et, en général, la situation est des plus déplorables. La loi militaire est en pleine vigueur sans aucune nécessité, et la plume se refuse à décrire les maux endurés par les Chrétiens."

Le Patriarche a fait savoir le contenu de cette lettre à M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, et en a fait également l'objet d'une communication à la Sublime Porte.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 187.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March* 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1880.

Monsieur,

PAR mes Circulaires du 23 et 24 Janvier et par mes dépêches antérieures, je vous ai fait connaître l'état déplorable des provinces limitrophes au point de vue du manque complet de sécurité et de l'impuissance des autorités locales.

De nouveaux faits viennent d'aggraver la situation. Les autorités locales ayant permis de séjourner sur la frontière aux brigands Dédoussy et Lally, qui avaient fait leur soumission, je me suis empressé de signaler cette circonstance à la Sublime Porte par une dépêche, adressée à la Légation Royale à Constantinople, en date du 11 Janvier, et dont copie ci-jointe.

Par cette dépêche je demandais que ces brigands fussent internés dans l'intérieur de la Thessalie, afin d'écarter les dangers qu'aurait pu faire naître leur presence sur la frontière, d'autant plus qu'ils jouissaient de la part des autorités locales d'une tolérance que leurs récents méfaits étaient loin de justifier.

Mais je viens d'apprendre, à ma grande surprise, qu'au lieu de les éloigner du théâtre de leurs crimes et leur enlever la possibilité de recommencer leurs exploits, les autorités locales les ont chargé du maintien de la sécurité publique et de la poursuite du brigandage.

Le brigand-en-chef, Dédoussy, vient même de faire part de ses nouvelles fonctions par une lettre adressée à quelques personnes qui s'étaient réfugiées de Rendina sur le sol Grec, en les invitant de rentrer dans le territoire Turc.

Je manquerais à mes devoirs si je n'appelais pas la sérieuse attention des Puissances sur des faits aussi scandaleux.

Me référant à mes précédentes communications je vous prie de porter tous ces faits à la connaissance de son Excellence, M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et faire ressortir la gravité d'une situation dont la prolongation pourrait avoir les conséquences les plus désastreuses.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 188.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{16}{28}$ *Février*, 1880.

Monsieur,

FAISANT suite à mes précédentes dépêches je crois devoir vous communiquer les renseignements contenus dans un Rapport que je viens de recevoir de notre Consul-Général à Janina.

D'après ce Rapport, un acte de brigandage des plus atroces vient d'être commis sur la route de Sayada, la seule route qui offrait jusqu'à présent quelque sécurité.

Dix-sept individus armés ont arrêté une compagnie d'Israélites, qui se rendait à Corfou. Ils leur ont enlevé 4,000 livres, après avoir tué le voiturier et blessé quatre autres.

A la tête des brigands se trouvait le fameux Kinzim Bey, malfaiteur des plus audacieux, qui vient d'être gracié par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

M. Loudos conclut dans son Rapport que l'état du pays deviendra des plus critiques si sa situation politique n'est pas changée dans un court délai.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 189.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March 15.)

Athènes, le $\frac{10 \text{ Février}}{2 \text{ Mars}}$, 1880.

Monsieur,

PAR mes dépêches successives je vous ai tenu au courant de l'état déplorable des provinces limitrophes et des nombreuses vexations auxquelles sont en butte les habitants de ces contrées.

Le dernier rapport de notre Vice-Consul à Volo nous apporte un curieux renseignement.

Une Circulaire de Sawas Pacha enjoint aux autorités locales d'adresser chaque semaine à la Sublime Porte des rapports pour démentir les renseignements que les Conseils des Puissances transmettent à leurs Gouvernements concernant le brigandage, la mauvaise administration, et la vénalité des magistrats Ottomans.

Nous ne doutons pas que ces réputations officielles, auxquelles les faits donnent tous les jours le plus éclatant démenti, ne soient appréciées par les Cabinets à leur juste valeur.

Nous avons cru cependant opportun de vous signaler cette tactique de la Sublime Porte pour votre information.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 190.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, March 14, 1880, 6·50 P.M.

SULTAN has named Hobart Pasha Vice-President, and two foreign officers as Members, of Court-martial appointed to try murderer of Russian Colonel.

No. 191.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 15, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

REUTER telegraphs that Osman Pasha has been to St. Petersburgh to arrange accounts of Russian indemnity for maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war.

Have you heard of this?

No. 192.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Sir E. Hamley.

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, March 15, 1880.

Sir,

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner to take part in the settlement of the frontier-line of the Turkish Empire in Asia, as laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, and Her Majesty's Commission under the Sign-Manual will shortly be forwarded to you to enable you to act in that capacity.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke, who acted as British Commissioner last year, will transfer to you the despatches and other papers relating to the business upon which you will be engaged, and as the instructions furnished to him contain full information respecting the principles by which you should be guided, it will be unnecessary that I should address you at length upon this point.

I shall be glad to learn from you the names of any officers whom you may wish to take with you as your staff, in order that I may communicate with Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War and with the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury upon the subject.

Steps have been taken to ascertain the date at which it is proposed that the Commission shall reassemble at Constantinople, and you will be informed without delay as soon as an answer is received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 193.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March 16.)

Athènes, le $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{4 \text{ Février}}$, 1880.

Monsieur,

IL résulte d'un Rapport du Consul de Sa Majesté à Larisse que les gardes-frontières Ottomans se sont révoltés contre l'autorité, qui, malgré la promesse qu'elle leur avait donnée, n'a pas payé leurs soldes.

Les émeutiers ont proclamé la déchéance de leurs officiers. Six cents d'entre eux se sont emparés du fort de Fanar, après en avoir expulsé les garnisons, et 600 autres se sont concentrés dans les environs de Rentina.

Le Chef d'Etat-Major, Eschref Pacha, a été envoyé sur les lieux pour les persuader de déposer les armes sous la promesse que les soldes leur seraient payées; mais ils ont refusé de le faire avant d'avoir été intégralement payés.

L'autorité militaire de Larisse a pris d'abord toutes les mesures nécessaires en envoyant sur les lieux des renforts consistant dans deux bataillons d'infanterie et un escadron de cavalerie pour assiéger les mutins, les obliger à se rendre, et, au besoin, les attaquer par les armes.

Mais, à la suite d'ordres télégraphiques, parvenus de Constantinople, cette décision a été modifiée et l'autorité militaire de Larisse a été invitée à étouffer l'affaire le plus tôt possible par la voie de la douceur.

On prétend que les gardes-frontières se sont adressés directement au Sultan en lui soumettant par le télégraphe leurs griefs contre l'autorité supérieure et l'état déplorable dans lequel ils se trouvent, n'ayant pas touché un obole depuis quarante mois, tandis que les autres militaires sont régulièrement payés et quelque fois par anticipation.

C'est ce télégramme qui a amené la destitution subite du Muchir Abby Pacha et de Chevket Pacha et leur rappel à Constantinople.

Le successeur de Chevket Pacha a déjà entamé des négociations avec les mutins, en leur envoyant des habits et en promettant de donner suite à leurs autres demandes.

Mais les mutins persistent à ne pas poser les armes avant d'avoir été intégralement payés.

L'issue de ce drame est donc incertaine; car, malgré toute sa bonne volonté, l'autorité locale ne saurait disposer de £T. 40,000, montant des réclamations des gardes-frontières.

Ces faits révèlent une situation dont la gravité ne saurait échapper aux Cabinets Européens, et il devient de plus en plus urgent que le sort de ces provinces soit définitivement fixé, afin de mettre un terme à leurs souffrances.

Je vous prie de faire de la présente l'objet de votre entretien avec son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 194.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, March 16.)

Athènes, le $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{2 \text{ Février}}$, 1880.

Monsieur,

LE Ministère de l'Intérieur vient de me communiquer un Rapport du Nomarque de Corfou, qui présente la situation de l'Epire sous les couleurs les plus sombres.

Il résulte de ce Rapport, qui concorde avec ceux de nos Consuls, que la vie, la fortune, et l'honneur des Chrétiens sont à la merci des Albanais Musulmans, qui y commettent les plus grands crimes. Toute trace d'autorité a disparu de ces contrées et l'impunité y règne.

Des familles entières quittent journellement leurs foyers et émigrent à Corfou pour y chercher un asile.

Tous ces emigrés sont dans le plus complet dénûment, couverts de haillons et manquant du pain quotidien. Les secours du Gouvernement et la charité privée ne suffisent plus à leurs besoins. Pour donner une faible idée des souffrances des Chrétiens, je vais reproduire ici quelques passages d'un Rapport que je viens de recevoir de notre Vice-Consul à Sayada.

Dans un endroit près de Delvino, un Chrétien ayant été assailli pas des chiens, il leur lança des pierres pour les éloigner. Sur ces entrefaites un berger Musulman fit feu sur le Chrétien, qui, tirant son poignard, se mit en état de défense. Le Musulman se rua alors sur le Chrétien et fit jouer son yatagan. Mais le Chrétien parvint à parer le coup, et dans cette lutte corps à corps, il tua le Musulman, et prit la fuite. Les amis du Musulman se dirigèrent alors vers le village où le Chrétien habitait, incendièrent sa maison, et commirent les actes les plus barbares contre les habitants, sans épargner l'honneur des femmes.

L'autorité envoya sur les lieux un officier avec vingt soldats pour procéder à une enquête. Mais à peine arrivés dans le village ils exigèrent des habitants de leur fournir des aliments, et non contents de ce que les malheureux Chrétiens avaient pu leur offrir, ils jetèrent en prison les primats de la localité après les avoir impitoyablement battus. Une rixe survint entre les soldats et les habitants, et ces derniers furent obligés de quitter en masse leur village pour aller chercher asile à Corfou.

Des faits pareils n'ont pas besoin de commentaires.

Je vous prie de saisir la première occasion pour attirer l'attention du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité sur les graves conséquences qu'un pareil état de choses pourrait avoir et signaler l'urgence d'y porter remède.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 195.

Report from Count Khevenhüller.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, March 16.)

(Translation.)

Sophia, February 25, 1880.

MR. ASHBURNHAM has informed me that, notwithstanding the assurance given to him by the Bulgarian Minister that henceforward the recognition of the Bulgarian neighbours would no longer we required, yet quite recently cases have occurred wherein the Commission rejected the exhibition of the Hodschet as insufficient.

I have also to remark here that my English colleague, notwithstanding unwearying assiduity, could not succeed in getting a written statement from the Bulgarian Government. It is very difficult indeed to get an answer from M. Natschowitz in black and white. From the lack of tolerably capable writers, and the unwillingness to contract an engagement, the result is that in most cases we have to be content with verbal arrangements.

For the purpose, however, of carrying out the order given to me in the despatch of the 12th January, I have this day urgently requested M. Natschowitz, on consideration of the Commission's very unfair demands, to put an end to this practice.

M. Natschowitz admitted that only the Commissions of Tirnovo and Sophia were guilty of the improprieties complained of. Both had, in his opinion, acted quite improperly.

Meanwhile, the Presidents of the said two Commissions had been summoned before the Court of the Minister of Justice, and they had been given to understand that they would either have to obey the orders already given, or be removed from their office.

I hope, therefore, that this just complaint of the Turks who are coming home again has been settled satisfactorily.

Accept, &c.

No. 196.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 16.)

Constantinople, le 4 Mars, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie d'un nouveau télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Scutari d'Albanie, ainsi qu'une requête de quelques émigrés concernant les actes de spolation dont sont victimes les propriétaires Musulmans de Nichsich et de Podgoritza, ainsi qu'aux conséquences fâcheuses qu'entraîneront infailliblement ces mesures arbitraires.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien signaler les faits contenus dans ces pièces à la sérieuse attention de sa Seigneurie M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Angleterre, et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Résumé of Petition addressed by the Emigrants of Nichsich to the Governor-General of Scutari (Albania).

(Traduction.)

NE voulant pas nous priver de la haute protection du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman et nous soumettre à la domination étrangère, nous avions dû émigrer, conformément aux usages de guerre, après la capitulation de notre ville.

Après la signature du Traité de Berlin, nous sommes retournés provisoirement à Nichsich dans le but de prendre possession de nos biens, et de faire valoir, conformément au dit Traité, nos droits incontestables.

Mais, hélas! nos biens étaient entre les mains des Monténégrins, et nos maisons étaient détruites.

Voyant que nos démarches auprès des autorités Monténégrines n'aboutissaient à rien, et que nos misères augmentaient toujours, et ne pouvant supporter l'insulte dont nous étions l'objet de la part des Monténégrins, nous avons été obligés de retourner dans les villes Ottomanes sans avoir pu rien obtenir.

Nous venons maintenant, au nom de tous les émigrés de Nichsich, solliciter la haute protection de Gouvernement Impérial pour mettre fin à nos misères en nous obtenant du Gouvernement Monténégrin—

1. La possession de tous nos biens;
2. Le loyer de nos biens et les produits de nos champs pour les deux dernières années;
3. L'indemnité pour nos maisons détruites;
4. La restitution de nos meubles et d'autres objets.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Scutari, le $\frac{19}{31}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

The Governor-General of Scutari (Albania) to the Sublime Porte.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

Scutari, le $\frac{26 \text{ Janvier}}{7 \text{ Février}}$, 1880.

J'APPRENDS que le Prince du Monténégro est arrivé à Spotzi et a commencé à distribuer les biens des émigrés de Nichsich. Il aurait aussi l'intention de disposer des

biens des émigrés de Podgoritza. Le but de cette mesure serait de contenter et de s'attirer les Chefs des tribus dont les noms sont mentionnés dans mon télégramme du $\frac{7}{8}$ courant.

Il est à craindre que les émigrés de Podgoritza et de ses environs, poussés par la misère dans laquelle ils se trouvent, ne s'opposent par une insurrection à l'application de cette mesure, dès que les Monténégrins mettront à exécution leur projet.

La révolte éclatera très-probablement aux environs de Podgoritza, peut-être même dans la ville de Podgoritza.

Bien que nous fassions tout notre possible pour prévenir un pareil soulèvement, je prie votre Altesse de faire ce qui est nécessaire pour détourner les Monténégrins de leur projet, qui est contraire aux Traités et aux stipulations internationaux.

J'apprends également que les Monténégrins attaqueront Gusinjé au printemps prochain avec un contingent de 15,000 Herzégoviniens. Beaucoup de ces derniers ont déjà commencé à se rendre au Monténégro.

Je ne manquerai pas de transmettre les détails les plus véridiques à cet égard, bien que la manière d'agir du Prince du Monténégro envers les Chefs des tribus ne laisse aucun doute sur l'exactitude de cette nouvelle.

No. 197.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 16.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)
(Extrait.)

Constantinople, le 11 Mars, 1880.

HIER soir j'ai reçu de Sir H. Layard une note officielle conçue dans les mêmes termes que son *Pro-memorid* et accompagnée de la traduction d'un télégramme secret.

Votre Excellence voit que Sa Seigneurie se presse d'arriver au résultat qu'elle croit de nature à amener une solution et à servir les intérêts des deux pays. Ses intentions bienveillantes pour la Turquie sont dûment appréciées ici, et chacun de nous comprend que le noble Lord n'a proposé cette mesure que parce qu'il la croyait nécessaire et utile, et surtout en vue d'écarter, comme il le dit dans son télégramme secret, la ligne Waddington, qui, d'ailleurs, il n'est point nécessaire de le rappeler, est une conception individuelle et non pas une ligne du Congrès.

Malheureusement, la Commission proposée ferait naître, sur une échelle beaucoup plus vaste, les maux et les difficultés que le Gouvernement Impérial ne peut contempler qu'avec la plus grande inquiétude, et que, pour ne pas être taxé d'exagération, je ne présente que très-atténués dans mon *Pro-memorid* responsif. Il faut donc absolument que cette vérité, ainsi que celle du principe de sauvegarde de la souveraineté Ottomane, comme toutes celles contenues dans les télégrammes que nous avons échangés à ce propos, soient soumises à Sa Seigneurie.

Ma réponse à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre contient trois ordres d'idées et vise les trois questions suivantes :—

1. Comment les Puissances pensent-elles exercer la médiation dont elles se sont réservé le droit?

2. Comment est-il. . . . une ligne sans faire des études sur les lieux? et—

3. Pourquoi. . . . une Commission d'Etudes dont les décisions ne sont pas obligatoires pour le Gouvernement Impérial?

Le premier paragraphe de mon *Pro-memorid* répond à la première, car effectivement, si Lord Salisbury voulait bien charger deux hommes spéciaux d'étudier le dossier que les Conférences de Constantinople ont eu effet de préparer, ainsi que les cartes qui l'accompagnent, ils se trouveraient parfaitement renseignés.

A la seconde, je réponds qu'étudier une ligne-frontière dans les Etats du Sultan avant de convenir avec lui sur les bases de la rectification à faire est une chose sans précédent dans l'histoire, et tout-à-fait contraire à ce qui s'est constamment pratiqué dans le Congrès de Berlin à propos de toutes les autres modifications de frontières qui ont été opérées avec le consentement des Plénipotentiaires de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Il ne s'agissait donc plus ici d'une médiation, mais d'une grave violation du droit des gens. Je supplie donc le noble Lord de vouloir bien ne pas perdre de vue ce point du droit international si capital pour tous les Etats, et surtout pour la Turquie d'aujourd'hui.

A la troisième je réponds en démontrant l'inutilité théorique et pratique de toute opération sur le terrain, ou que les travaux des Conférences et les cartes qui existent suffisent pour établir une base de médiation et une entente, laquelle doit précéder toute

étude locale et toute ligne à tracer. Au surplus, je démontre les dangers graves qu'engendrerait une pareille mesure.

Comme je le dis dans mon *Pro-memorid*, le Gouvernement Impérial étudiera tout ce qui est venu à ce propos de Sa Seigneurie avec la plus grande attention et déférence. Par conséquent, tout ce qui précède est un échange de vues entre Sa Seigneurie et moi, destiné à lui montrer cette question sur son vrai jour et à attirer sa bienveillante attention sur la situation critique et dangereuse qui se produit dans la Péninsule des Balkans. Sa Seigneurie, en grand patriote Anglais qu'elle est, appréciera, je n'en doute point, la conduite d'un patriote Ottoman qui lui signale très-respectueusement un grand danger pour son pays.

Je prie votre Excellence de faire tout ce qui est possible pour arriver à temps et pouvoir entretenir sans délai Sa Seigneurie du contenu de la présente, en lui faisant bien sentir qu'il ne s'agit point ici d'une résistance aux conseils d'une Puissance amie, mais d'un danger et d'une conflagration qui menace la paix dans les contrées de la Turquie avoisinant la Grèce, conflagration dont les conséquences pourraient être incalculables.

No. 198.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 16.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.)
(Extrait.)

Constantinople, le 11 Mars, 1880.

Pro-memorid responsif remis par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople.

AYANT étudié avec le plus grand soin le *Pro-memorid* résumant la proposition de Sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury, relative à la rectification de la frontière Turco-Grecque, j'ai reconnu toute la gravité du principe et des modalités constituant le projet que le *Pro-memorid* en question contient.

Le Gouvernement Impérial en fera l'objet de ses plus sérieuses délibérations. En attendant, et toujours à titre officieux purement, je prendrai la liberté d'avouer à votre Excellence qu'autant je comprendrais que les principaux Ministres des Puissances se fissent éclairer par le rapport d'hommes compétents chargés par chacun d'eux d'étudier tout ce qui a été fait, écrit, ou dit dans les différentes Conférences sur cette question, autant j'ai peine à comprendre l'utilité d'une étude, enquête, ou excursion que les Délégués des Puissances seraient chargés de faire dans les Provinces Ottomanes limitrophes de la Grèce.

Sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury a eu lieu à examiner et pondérer les effets peut-être déplorables, en tout cas fâcheux, que pourrait avoir la présence d'une Commission Européenne investie d'un pareil mandat dans des contrées dont la population fidèle et dévouée à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan est travaillée par les intrigues Helléniques et poussée à embrasser l'idée de l'annexion à la Grèce par les nombreux sujets et protégés Hellènes qui ont été installés à cette fin dans ces contrées, et par les Emissaires non moins nombreux que le Gouvernement Hellénique y entretient à grands frais. Ce serait sans nul doute jeter dans un pays que l'on s'efforce depuis si longtemps d'agiter, des causes de discorde, et bientôt, les bandes armées provenant de la Grèce aidant, des conflits les plus sanglants. En attirant l'attention la plus sérieuse de votre Excellence sur ce point, et toujours sans préjudice des délibérations du Gouvernement Impérial, je me permettrai de lui demander dès à présent si, dans le cas où les six Puissances ne verraient pas à la fois l'inutilité et le danger de cette mission, le Gouvernement Impérial n'accomplirait pas aux yeux du Gouvernement de sa Majesté Britannique un devoir impérieux et sacré en prévenant le mal et en sauvegardant par ses justes objections et son refus la paix publique dans cette partie des Etats de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

No. 199.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March 16.)

(Télégraphique.)
(Confidentielle.) *Constantinople, le 13 Mars, 1880.*

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-après à votre Excellence une communication qui vient de m'être fait par son Excellence Sir H. Layard :—

"Lord Salisbury a télégraphié à l'Ambassade que la Grèce paraît disposée à objecter à la proposition Anglaise qui a été déjà approuvée par la majorité des Puissances. La Sublime Porte ferait un acte de sagesse si elle laissait l'objection venir du côté de la Grèce. Rappelez à la Sublime Porte que l'Angleterre avait été instamment priée par Musurus Pacha de rejeter la proposition de M. Waddington par les Puissances. Si la Turquie n'accepte pas maintenant la proposition Anglaise elle nous mettrait dans une position embarrassante."

J'attends anxieusement l'effet des efforts de votre Excellence. Nous avons, il est vrai, prié instamment Lord Salisbury de repousser la proposition de M. Waddington. C'était une ligne n'ayant aucun rapport avec les vues du Congrès et infligeant des mutilations auxquelles le Gouvernement Impérial ne pouvait en aucun cas consentir. Aujourd'hui ce n'est pas pour peu de choses que je prends la liberté de faire des objections à sa Seigneurie. Il s'agirait de mettre le feu dans les quatre coins de l'Épire et de la Thessalie, et je suis sûr que sa Seigneurie me saura gré de l'avoir prévenue de ce danger.

Tout ceci toujours en mon nom personnel et sans mêler nullement le Gouvernement Impérial.

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 15, 1880, 4·20 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has requested me to telegraph following massage to your Lordship :—

"His Excellency would not have ventured to disturb your Lordship by observations and *pro-memorids* on the Greek question at the present moment if it did not threaten to set fire to the four corners of Roumelia (Turkey in Europe).

"He performs a sacred duty in placing the truth before your Lordship, certain that some day full justice will be done him.

"He does so entirely in a personal manner, and awaits your Lordship's orders in reply to his *pro-memorid* and to present communication.

"Long before Her Majesty's Ambassador had been instructed to treat the question here M. Musurus had at great length placed before Sir J. Paunefote the gravity and danger of proposed measure, proved by what occurred to Commission for the delimitation of the frontier at Gusinjé."

Copy of *pro-memorid* will be sent to you by post to-morrow.

No. 201.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 15, 1880, 7·29 P.M.*

I HAVE this day received your Lordship's despatch No. 147.

No. 202.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, March 15, 1880, 10·40 P.M.*

SERIOUS affray yesterday at Stanimaka between Bulgars and Greeks on occasion of elections for Conseil-Général. Forty Bulgars reported injured, of whom ten mortally; only a few Greeks wounded. Details not sufficiently authentic for further report. Everything possible after circular of Gymnastic Society.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 203.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16, 12·45 P.M.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 16, 1880, 9·30 A.M.*

YOURS No. 64.

The Osman Pasha referred to in Reuter's telegram is not the Minister of War, but an officer who has been, I understand, sent to Russia to settle question of indemnity claimed from Turkey for maintenance of Turkish prisoners during the war.

No. 204.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16, 2·50 P.M.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 16, 1880, 12·11 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Michell, dated yesterday :—

"We have only 100*l.* in hand, scarcely sufficient for this week, although we have stopped rations on two days. Turkish Commissioner has ceased giving bread. The distress will be greater than ever. Pray assist as far as possible."

No. 205.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 26. Political.)
Catterina, March 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a Report, with one inclosure, from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, relative to the Mellies and Vizitcha affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 205.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Volo, February 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to report that, in the beginning of October last, information was given me by the then heads of the civil and military authorities at Larissa, that the people of the Mellies and Vizitcha villages, situated in the district of Volo, had formed a secret and political Committee against the Turkish Government, and that seven of their more prominent inhabitants had been arrested as conspirators, on a charge being brought against them by some of their own villagers.

My own attempts to get at facts respecting this alleged Committee resulted in proofs that it had no political significance, and that the Society to which seditious aims were

attributed was of a nature purely peaceful, having for its objects the promotion of public order, municipal law, and social decency.

The association, or rather fraternity, gradually gained some power and respect in the two villages by encouraging good and discouraging evil influences. The vile and worthless, however, began to feel impatient under the moral sway to which their conduct and behaviour were restricted by village rules, and one of their number eventually broke from control by committing rape on an unfortunate girl.

While the villagers were making a public example of this profligate, the friends and companions of the wretch came to Volo, and by a tissue of falsehoods led the authorities to believe that seven men, indicated by name, were inciting the people of Mellies and Vizitcha to a revolt and to a system of self-government.

It is also significant to know that these men entreated and obtained from the Turkish officials a promise not to expose them as informants, for fear of their meeting with violence at the hands of the villagers for this act of loyalty to the Sultan.

Upon this intelligence a large military force was at once dispatched to those parts, and after a one-sided investigation, and on obtaining a written accusation bearing the signatures of fifteen villagers, the suspected persons were seized, bound, and brought to Volo for trial.

In spite of their examinations here proving futile; in spite of strong evidence of their peaceable dispositions; and notwithstanding their being numbered among the few who took no share whatever in the last insurrection, six of them were conveyed as criminals to Larissa, and there subjected to a long and strict course of trial in the Central Military Court. I say six of them, not seven, for one was delivered over to the Hellenic Vice-Consul at Volo, on being claimed and demanded as a Greek subject.

Shortly before the end of November I supplied the military authorities at Larissa with an unofficial statement of the information I obtained about the fraternity, collected, as it had been, by a process which rendered the particulars in every way reliable. I also verbally expressed to them the opinion that the view they had taken of the matter seemed in direct opposition to the policy of their Government, inasmuch as endeavours were being made to show up the people of Thessaly as perfectly contented and quiet under their present rulers. They answered me, in all courtesy, that they entirely agreed in what I said, and that as no valuable evidence had until then been produced against the prisoners, they would in all probability be shortly released as innocent.

Before leaving Larissa for Volo, in the middle of December, I promised Shefket Pasha to make for him here some further inquiries into the import of this brotherhood, and in return obtained his consent to let me know their decision or judgment previous to its being pronounced on the prisoners.

The fresh investigations I made at Volo only confirmed the notes I collected whilst at Larissa; and in acquainting Shefket Pasha with this result, I expressed the hope that the release of the Melliotis and Viziotis would no longer be retarded.

On the 23rd ultimo Shefket Pasha left the province for Constantinople, having been recalled from Thessaly, and on the 29th I received a telegram from my correspondent at Larissa, telling me that the Mellies and Vizitcha prisoners were being sent to Volo in order to be exiled by first steamer.

On its receipt I telegraphed in Turkish as follows to Idieh Pasha, at Karditza, then newly appointed Commander-in-chief of the forces in Thessaly:—

(Translation.)

"I am informed that Mellies and Vizitcha prisoners are exiled, and on their way to Volo. If true, had you not better stop their departure from here until you yourself examine the matter?"

Early the next day I received from his Excellency his first reply, and by noon his second, marked respectively No. 1 and No. 2.

Translation No. 1:—"I wrote to the President of the Military Tribunal not to send the seven persons. If this is possible, he will telegraph orders to Riza Bey."

Translation No. 2:—"About the seven persons I wrote this evening to Larissa, and now received the answer that they are being sent nowhere else but to Constantinople, and according to the decision of the Military Court, they must be sent there. I think you will also find this decision good."

While these communications were going on between Idieh Pasha and myself, the unfortunate prisoners, lightly clothed and shod, were hurried down on foot in the cold and snow to the vicinity of Volo, and there secretly embarked on board a Turkish ship-of-war.

The serious turn the affair had taken caused considerable excitement and ill-feeling among the inhabitants of the town; and deputation upon deputation, composed of the most respectable and influential, introduced themselves before the Consular authorities, and entreated our intervention.

As I was suffering at the time from a severe indisposition, my colleagues of France, Austria, and Greece called at this Office to consult as to the best course for us to adopt in the matter, and it was at once decided that the following collective telegram should be addressed to the Commander-in-chief:—

(Translation.)

"A son Excellence le Mushir Idieh Pasha, Karditza.

"Le Corps Consulaire, après avoir lu attentivement les dépêches transmises par votre Excellence à Mr. Longworth, est d'opinion, pour tranquilliser l'esprit public, de retarder l'envoi des prisonniers à Constantinople, et d'ordonner un examen consciencieux des faits à eux imputés.

"Persuadé que vous approuverez son opinion conciliante, le Corps Consulaire vous prie de transmettre des ordres en conséquence aux autorités de Volo.

"Mariehich, Robert, Izioti, Longworth."

By dawn the next morning Idieh Pasha's answer to the telegram reached us in this sense:—

(Translation.)

"Consuls d'Autriche, France, Grèce, et l'Angleterre, Volo.

"J'ai reçu votre dépêche par lequel vous me priez de retarder l'envoi des prisonniers Viziotis et Melliotis, et selon votre désir j'ai donné des ordres nécessaires au Commandant Militaire de Volo. Idieh."

Scarcely were the victims returned from the man-of-war to the prison of Volo than the town was crowded by some 300 or 400 villagers from Mellies, Vizitcha, and the neighbouring village of Pinecatis, to claim justice for their countrymen at the hands of the authorities, and to entreat the mediation and assistance of the Consular Body.

I acquainted those who presented themselves before me, that the necessary representations having been made by us to the proper authorities, the prisoners were to be detained in Thessaly for a further and a more careful inquiry. I also thought fit to point out to them the advisability of taking heed that these public demonstrations do not involve them into acts of violence, and of conducting themselves in a manner that can in no way be construed as unlawful and disorderly.

It is interesting to know that the villages of Mellies and Vizitcha lie near each other and about 20 miles from Volo. They are situated in the midst of a wild and rocky country, forming the centre of the Pelion range of mountains.

Mellies has about 380 houses and Vizitcha 170, while the adult male population is estimated as 900 in the one and 400 in the other.

I should state that of the seven prisoners three were taken from each of the two villages, and that the one who obtained his freedom by enjoying Hellenic protection is an inhabitant of Mellies.

The course adopted by the friends and fellow-villagers of the ones in custody, with a view to hasten their expected release, is in no way open to blame. Three written addresses were drawn out and presented to the authorities, vindicating the characters and conduct of the prisoners as perfectly innocent of all hostility or disaffection against the Turkish Government, and soliciting humbly their liberation.

These documents, copies of which were furnished to the Consulates, bear respectively the signatures of 133, 283, and 86 persons of the upper and more respectable classes of the Greek communities at Volo, Mellies with Vizitcha, and Pinecatis.

Besides the addresses the 283 individuals of the two villages most concerned dispatched a telegram in the same sense to the Mushir Idieh Pasha at Karditza, with all their names attached to it, a proceeding which resulted in their obtaining an answer from his Excellency, wherein he expressed his readiness to do everything in his power towards releasing the prisoners.

Satisfied with these assurances, the concourse of people from the villages returned to their homes after a stay of twelve days at Volo.

I have now to add that yesterday evening the unhappy prisoners were secretly embarked as soldiers on board the French steamer, and are now on their voyage to Constantinople.

On my requesting to know of the local officials the responsible agent of this strange and unexpected step, I received the brief answer that such were the orders from the Sublime Porte.

I need not make any further comments on these unusual incidents, but in conclusion I beg to say, that unless the Ambassadors at Constantinople interest themselves in the matter, it is very doubtful whether the poor prisoners of Mellies and Vizitcha would ever return to their homes, friends, and relatives.

The people appeal through me to the sympathy and assistance of Sir Henry Layard, on whom are centred their best hopes of a good and speedy issue to this untoward affair.

I beg, therefore, to communicate this to his Excellency through the medium of your Consulate-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

P.S. *Volo, February* 23, 1880.—As the arrival of the Austrian steamer is retarded by an accident, I am enabled to furnish herewith a copy of a report I have this day received from a gentleman whose name and occupation are given in the inclosed despatch, marked Secret.

We are supplied in it with some very interesting particulars about the cause and origin of the brotherhood lately in existence among the villagers of Mellies and Vizitcha.

The manner in which this institution has been treated by the Turkish Government tends considerably to impress even those who are not easily open to such convictions, that no law and security prevails in the country, and that its inhabitants are exposed to the arbitrary power of their Rulers in the midst of the general state of disorganization, corruption, and anarchy.

I should also add that the Turkish functionaries of these parts seem now to disregard the impropriety of speaking openly, in most derisive and disparaging terms, of foreigners in general, and of Diplomatic and Consular Representatives in particular, and that the last aspect of the Mellies and Vizitcha affair is viewed by them as a victory won in the cause of non-foreign intervention.

They even go so far as to anticipate a similar success at Constantinople.

H. Z. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 205.

Letter addressed to Vice-Consul Longworth.

Volo, February 23, 1880.

Sir,

IN compliance with your request, to furnish you with information respecting the brotherhood existing at Mellies and Vizitcha, I beg to give you the following facts:—

Soon after the last insurrection many of those who had taken an active part in it on returning to their villages became noted bad characters, and refusing to work, endeavoured to live at the charge of the rest of the villagers, doing much mischief. Especially was this the case in Mellies and Vizitcha, where matters became so bad that all the respectable inhabitants, notwithstanding their reluctance to do so, were obliged to come to the authorities in Volo, and ask them to afford help and protection. The Kaïmakam of that time, Fajly Bey, now in Tricala, received them kindly, and, in my presence, told them that, owing to the disturbed condition of the Plain of Thessaly, where brigandage was rife, and large bands were occupying the attention of the military authorities, they could not spare regular troops for Pelion, where, comparatively speaking, things were quiet; and he advised them to organize in every village a small force sufficient to keep order, to pay themselves; he promising to recognize the leaders whom they should select, and, in case of actual need, assist them with detachments of regular troops from Volo. This was accordingly done, but still, owing to the protection given to these lawless characters by several influential persons, on account of relationship and other reasons, there was little improvement, so that at last all the respectable inhabitants of these villages assembled in the church, fraternized, and took an oath that they would protect each other, and treat those who had so long troubled them as outlaws, and no one should afford them any assistance in future.

This example was almost immediately followed by nearly all the villages at Pelion, and order and quietness was re-established; some of the lawless persons were killed by the guards, some left the country, whilst others settled down quietly. The greatest proof that this movement had no political significance is afforded by the fact that when some of the insurgent Chiefs—Garefli, Boyatzi, Catzonda—and others wished to be introduced in this brotherhood they were refused, on the ground that they had protected and helped to maintain those who disturbed the peace. Partly in revenge for their rejection, and partly to render a service to one of their friends who committed violation on a girl, whom the brotherhood took under their protection, and were demanding his punishment, these Chiefs denounced the brotherhood to the authorities as a political Society, being joined by a nephew of one of these men who were sent to Constantinople, with the hope of sooner getting into the property, he being the sole heir. On this accusation being made, the Military Kaïmakam of Volo, with the President of the Commercial Court of Vol ("Tetzaret"), were sent to make inquiries on the spot. The examinations were made in Greek, but the depositions and answers to the various inquiries were written in Turkish, which none of the people could read; and it is certain that the President, a man noted for his fanaticism, altered the depositions so as to endeavour to prove that a conspiracy existed against the Government, and he, in conjunction with the Military Kaïmakam, obliged fifteen of the people to sign a paper in Greek against the brotherhood, by threatening to send them to Volo bound as insurgents if they refused to sign; the others would not be intimidated, and refused it.

After this they seized seven of the villagers and brought them bound to Volo as conspirators. Repeated examinations before the Cadi failed, however, to establish this charge, and they were accordingly declared innocent by the Davy Medjliss; but here the Civil Kaïmakam most shamefully interfered, so much that a notice of this was inserted in the "Majbata," and by writing a different statement to Chefket Pasha, he induced him to send an order to have the men brought to Larissa to be examined before the Martial Court. One of the seven men brought in was a Greek subject, and as his Consul interfered on his behalf, he was liberated; the other six were sent to Larissa. And from this point the proceedings which were instituted are so well known to you that I need not recapitulate them.

Begging you not to allow my signature to become public, I remain, &c.

(Signed) ———

No. 206.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March* 16, 1880, 7 P.M.

WILSON telegraphs from Angora that he has done all he could in the affair of Defterdar, and leaves for Constantinople to-day. Having been received with marked coolness by the officials, he could not remain.

Repeated promises of Porte to name a Delegate to inquire with him into the case of Binns have not been kept.

I think that Her Majesty's Government should now insist on Defterdar's dismissal, as Wilson telegraphs that Vice-Consul could not go back while this official remains.

No. 207.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

GENERAL HAMLEY suggests, as the best mode of settling the Khotour question, that General Zelenoi should be empowered to adopt boundary-line marked by him and Sir A. Kemball in silver ink on the map now in the British Embassy at Constantinople.

As the ground has already been surveyed, and the line is understood to pass along a chain of mountains, the necessity of further examination and demarcation upon the spot would be dispensed with, and much time and expense saved. Details by despatch.

Please ascertain if this course is favourably viewed by Russian Government [† Turkish Government and Persian Ambassador].

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* A similar telegram was sent to Sir A. H. Layard. † To Sir A. H. Layard.

No. 208.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 182.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Major-General Sir E. B. Hamley, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, with regard to the best mode of settling the boundary to be assigned to the district of Khotour, in accordance with Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin.†

Your Excellency is aware that no formal and definitive settlement of the frontier-line, such as the language of the Article in question seems to presuppose, was accomplished by the Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between Turkey and Persia.

The district was, however, fully and accurately surveyed, and a map prepared, which is now deposited in Her Majesty's Embassy, and upon which Sir A. Kemball and General Zelenoi, the English and Russian Commissioners, marked in silver ink the line of frontier which they had agreed upon as offering the best solution of the question.

General Hamley proposes that the Russian Commissioner and himself should have authority to accept this line as that which is contemplated by the Treaty, and that the Turkish and Persian Governments should also be requested to assent to it. He gives his reasons for believing that no valid objection will be raised to this course by any of the parties concerned, and, inasmuch as the country has already been examined and mapped out, and the proposed line of frontier is understood to pass along the crests of a chain of mountains, it would seem that the whole matter might thus be settled in a short time at Constantinople, and without the necessity of incurring the trouble and expense of a fresh examination upon the spot.

I have accordingly requested you by telegraph to ascertain whether this proposal would be viewed with favour by the Turkish Government and the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 209.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 188.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE to your Excellency documents which Musurus Pasha left with me yesterday.‡ In doing so his Excellency impressed upon me that they were in the nature of personal communications, and were not to be looked upon as a formal expression of the opinion of his Government.

The Ottoman Ambassador went on to explain that his Government had no desire to meet the recommendations of Her Majesty's Government by a blank refusal, but they felt that there were points in those recommendations to which they could not assent without incurring the risk of considerable popular disturbance. Without, therefore, being in a position to offer any suggestion on behalf of his Government, he said that, speaking for himself alone, he should recommend such a modification of our proposals as would enable the Commission for the examination of the Greek Frontier question to divide their task into two parts. The first and more important part would be the determination in its general features of the new line of frontier to be conceded; and it would be necessary that this part of their task should be finished in such a manner as to carry with it the assent of the disputant Powers before the second part could be approached. This second part would consist in an examination of the details of the new line upon the spot, and the accommodation of it to those geographical or ethnical circumstances which might seem to call for practical recognition. His Excellency added that he should be disinclined to see the Commission, as a whole, negotiating with the Porte, and should prefer that the decisions to which the Commission by a majority should come should be the result of individual negotiations, in which the several Powers should have obtained the accession of the Porte to their views. In reply to this last remark, I could only observe that previous experience did not justify me in believing that such a process would lead to an early result, and I did not think that any of the Powers would accede to it.

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin.
† No. 165.
‡ Nos. 197, 198, and 199.

With respect to his main suggestions, I said that they furnished matter for serious consideration, and I was far from saying that there were not solid reasons to be advanced in favour of the modifications which he suggested. Before, however, they could form matter for the deliberation of the Powers they must be formally proposed by the Porte. England having obtained the sanction of all the mediating Powers to her own suggestions, could not now, without some apparent cause, seek to change them; but, if the Porte should formally adopt the views his Excellency had expressed, I had no doubt the Powers would give to them a careful consideration.

I pointed out to his Excellency the danger, which was far from imaginary, that, if the Porte refused to concur in the appointment of a Commission, the mediating Powers might resolve to dispense with that concurrence, and appoint a Commission to sit at some other capital, in order to examine and agree upon the frontier to be recommended by them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 210.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 189. Secret.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

IN the course of the conversation with the Turkish Ambassador which I have recounted to your Excellency in my despatch No. 188 of this day's date, I pointed out to him that, since the action of the Sultan in decorating an officer whose removal your Excellency had demanded, England had not stood in the same position towards Turkey as before. The insult implied by that proceeding was felt and had been commented upon in this country, and to many people it seemed the indication of a change in Turkish counsels which could only be followed by an entire modification of English policy towards Turkey. I urged upon the Ambassador faithfully to represent the purport of my language to his Sovereign. His reply, however, left upon me the conviction, which has more than once resulted from previous conversations, that he would never be willing to risk his own favour with the Sultan by becoming the channel of unwelcome communications.

In the course of conversation I asked him why his Government had authorized the signature by their Plenipotentiaries of a Treaty containing the provisions of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin if they were unwilling to accept the mediation which that Article sanctioned.

He replied to me that Carathéodory Pasha had received most precise instructions to refuse his signature to any such Article, but that he had deviated from those instructions on the solemn assurance of Prince Bismarck that by signing the Treaty containing this Article his Government would incur no additional responsibility whatever.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 211.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 112 A.)

Foreign Office, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI called upon me to-day and asked what course Her Majesty's Government proposed to take about the question of the boundary line between Bulgaria and Roumania at Arab Tabia.

I told his Excellency that, before giving him a final answer, I should be glad to know the views of the Austrian Government on the subject, but my impression was that if Russia continued to refuse her concurrence to the decision of the Commission, a Protocol should be drawn up and signed by the six Powers recognizing that Arab Tabia belongs to Roumania, and that this sanction would be sufficient to give Roumania a secure possession of the position.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 212.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1880.

IN reply to your Excellency's inquiry, made personally of Sir J. Paunccfote, I have the honour to inform you that no representation has been received from the Greek Government of the nature of that which, as you inform me, has been made to the Austro-Hungarian Government, against the presence of a Turkish Delegate in the proposed International Commission for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

I have informed M. Gennadius, when he has discussed the subject with me, that, according to the proposals under the consideration of the Powers, neither of the disputant Powers should be admitted to representation on the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 213.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that a few days back three battalions of infantry left Prisrend for Kuprulu, a station on the line of railway between Salonica and Mitrovica, and that two more battalions are to follow shortly.

Their destination is the Bulgarian frontier, and their object to put down an insurrection which is said to have taken place in the vicinity of Egri-Palanka.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 214.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February* 23, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I have received a verbal message informing me that a truce, or suspension of blood-feuds, to last until the 4th May, had been agreed to between the different tribes inhabiting the district of Jakova, one of the conditions being that during that period none of the Chiefs should go to Prisrend. I shall therefore have no opportunity at present of an interview with Ali Ibra; but I propose sending him another message, suggesting a meeting at one of the numerous villages between this and Jakova.

There is no apprehension of any serious ill-treatment of the Christians during the truce—though such agreements are not always strictly respected—but it would be as well to provide for their safety hereafter.

From what I hear, the existing animosity of the Mussulman population towards the Christians is to be attributed as much, if not more, to blood-feuds as to fanaticism; for the very fact of there being a truce shows that they must have other motives than simply a suspension of hostilities for the benefit of the Christians.

As spring is setting in, and the land must be cultivated, it is probable that they find it to their own advantage to conclude such a compact, especially as these quarrels are quite as frequent among Mussulmans themselves as with the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 215.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February* 24, 1880.

UPWARDS of two months ago Mukhtar Pasha, the Vali of this vilayet, arrived from Monastir, accompanied by eleven battalions of infantry, two batteries of artillery, and two squadrons of cavalry.

It was fully believed that he had been sent by the Turkish Government to put an end to the state of anarchy that has existed in this unhappy country for some time past, and at the same time to consign the districts of Gusinjé and Plava to Montenegro, in conformity with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

According to his own account, the state of the country is everything that can be desired; and the cession of Gusinjé only a question of time, to be amicably settled by persuasion and without bloodshed. But I have failed as yet to discover what improvements have taken place, or that the Gusinjé question is at all likely to be terminated in accordance with his views.

The Catholic clergy of Jakova are unable to return for fear of being assassinated; and scarcely a day passes without its concomitant tale of persecution, brigandage, or murder.

On Mukhtar Pasha's arrival all the bad characters, in short, those who thought that they might possibly be brought to account for their past misdeeds, fled to the mountains; whilst the orderly and industrious entertained a fond hope that the Government was about to take matters seriously in hand.

But the golden opportunity was allowed to slip by. It soon became manifest that Mukhtar Pasha had another object in view; what that object is no one has yet been able to discover. All we know is that the Chiefs representing the mountain tribes, who are essentially affected by the Gusinjé question, refuse or are afraid to hold any intercourse with, or be influenced by, Mukhtar Pasha, and that all the miscreants have returned. Many of them may be daily seen walking about the streets of Prisrend armed to the teeth, and a defiant look about them.

One more particularly is attracting general attention by the effrontery of his demeanour. He is the assassin of Mehemet Ali's telegraphist (Ramadan by name, a native of Lurna, but residing at Prisrend).

Why such a character is allowed to be at large causes general astonishment, and goes far to confirm the existing belief that this foul murder, committed in broad day, and in a public place, was carried out, if not by order of the Government, at all events by that of Nazif Pasha, who was then Vali of this vilayet, and had left Prisrend two hours before the assassination. But the victim was a Christian, and therefore not worthy of notice!

It may be interesting to know that Nazif Pasha, Vali of Pristina during the last two years, who bears the very worst reputation, has been recalled at the special request of the Austrian Government.

During my first interview with Mukhtar Pasha, his Excellency asserted that public security in this province was perfectly re-established. When I thanked him for the escort he was so good as to send to meet me, he ridiculed so unnecessary a precaution.

As far as my personal safety was concerned perhaps he was right; but, being accompanied by my family and a considerable amount of baggage, it cannot be said that I exceeded the limits of prudence, especially in a country where no traveller, be he Mussulman or Christian, considers it safe to travel alone.

I know that his Excellency is taking every precaution for his own security, and not without good reason, for I defy him to ride about the country, as I am in the habit of doing, accompanied by a single cavass. Moreover, when he proposes to leave Prisrend he will do well not to proclaim his departure, unless he intends to provide himself with several battalions as an escort.

I cannot but reflect on the sad impression which the present deplorable state of affairs produces. That a country situated in the very heart of Europe, abounding with natural riches of every description, favoured by a delightful climate and productive soil, and peopled by a race noted for its chivalry, endurance, and many other good qualities, should sink so low as to be the scene of so much persecution, injustice, misery, and bloodshed, all owing to the unpardonable negligence of a corrupt and effete Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 216.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 34. Political.)

Scutari, March 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed that two Mahommedan native gentlemen have arrived here for the alleged purpose of obtaining money contributions on behalf of the Albanian League.

I understand these gentlemen have already visited Elbassar, Berat, Tirana, Cavaya, and Durazzo, but it is believed they have not been very successful in their mission.

The impression that the Turkish Government is the real support of the League is far too general to permit the Albanians to think it necessary to make pecuniary sacrifices on behalf of the organization; and it is asserted by some that the mission of the two collectors in question is merely to enable the Porte to account for the financial strength of the League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 217.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 35. Political.)

Scutari, March 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of an extract from a letter received by me from a trustworthy friend near Gusinjé on the subject of the summary execution, by Ali Beg's orders, of a Slav Christian who had recently arrived at Gusinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Letter addressed to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

February 29, 1880.

Dear Sir,

ANOTHER deed of blood has occurred these last few days at Gusinjé.

On Thursday last a Slav (Orthodox Christian)—whether of Ipeck or coming only from Ipeck is not known—arrived at Gusinjé, and, after unloading his baggage, he accosted another Slav of Gusinjé, whom he asked to find him a horse to carry him to Clementi, whence he wished, he said, to proceed to Scutari. The Gusinjé Slav excused himself, saying that Ali Beg had prohibited all departures, and without his permission no one could leave Gusinjé. He (the traveller) went to obtain the permission, but, instead, was imprisoned, and then Ali Beg sent for his baggage, and, it is said, after opening it, some Frank (European) clothing was discovered, together with many letters. On the letters being opened in the midst of the public Medjliss (Council), the person who read them stated that they were letters of recommendation to enable the traveller to move about in safety. Without any cause, without any legal formalities, only for being found in possession of those few clothes, he was dragged from prison and shot.

Hardly any of the Clementi can now go to Gusinjé. If no steps are taken bloodshed is sure to ensue.

No. 218.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 114.)

Philippopoli, March 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a memorandum which has been placed in my hands by some Greek inhabitants of the neighbouring town

of Stanimaka, relative to the proceedings of the local Bulgarian Club, or section of the Philippopoli "Central Committee."

The Greeks named in the memorandum were forcibly prevented from selling their wine in the villages of the Department of Haskeui, their licences were taken from them, and they were severely beaten.

One of the sufferers made a deposition before me on the 2nd instant to a similar effect. He added, however, that the culprits had been arrested, but pleading drunkenness as an excuse for having destroyed the licences, they were merely mulcted in a fine of 2 liras for the benefit of the victims of their violence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 218.

Memorandum.

A LA date du 20 Janvier / 1 Février, 1880, les nommés Panayotti Kritá et Théodore Zingos, habitants de Sténimaka, se rendant dans les villages du canton de Haskeui pour vendre leur merchandise, composée de six barils du vin, ont été rencontrés, avant leur entrée dans le village de Kozani, par les Bulgares, Athanasse Tzarsamba, Rayiou Kesebkila (habitants de Sténimaka), et Georges Botani (habitant d'Aziz-Beyli), qui les ont menacé par des insultes les plus grossières, en voulant leur faire comprendre qu'ils ne devaient pas se hasarder d'avancer au delà dans le village.

Ils ajoutaient que les Grecs sont des schismatiques, et maudits par les récents Edits, et qu'il est strictement défendu aux Bulgares de recevoir plus de Grecs dans leurs villages, ainsi que d'avoir dorénavant des relations commerciales avec eux.

Mais les susdits Sténimakiotes Grecs, ne faisant pas cas de ces paroles des Bulgares, ils ont avancé dans le village de Kozani. Alors les trois Bulgares, qui au commencement se sont vus contraints de laisser avancer les Grecs, à cause de la présence d'un troisième Sténimakiote, Grec aussi (le nommé Georges Mirmingn), venant de nouveau à leurs rencontre, leur ont coupé le passage, et montés à cheval, les ont attaqué, pour la seconde fois, et ils se mirent à les rosser avec des gros gourdins dont les Bulgares eurent la prévoyance de s'armer.

Après leur avoir donné une bonne râclée, ils leurs ont pris aussi les permis de transport, dont les Grecs étaient munis par le Bureau des Contributions Indirectes de Sténimaka, et les ont déchiré, en disant que, dorénavant, il n'y aura plus qu'une seule autorité, dont on reconnaîtra dans les villages le pouvoir, les ordres, et les permis de transport, et de cette autorité on doit se fournir à l'avenir toutes espèces de permis de circulation et de transport.

Cette autorité, que les Bulgares veulent mettre au-dessus de toutes les autres, n'est autre chose qu'un supplément du Comité Central de Philippopoli, portant le nom, "Club Bulgare de Sténimaka: Rhodoppe" (en Bulgare, "Tzitalischté Rodoppa"), présidé par les nommés Bogdan Barkaloff (Caissier du canton de Sténimaka) et d'un certain Pavlo Kostoff; et ayant comme messagers et receveurs deux autres Bulgares, aux noms de Georges Bozanoff (maître d'école dans le village de Topolovo), et Kosta Zaprianoff (maître d'école, aussi dans le village de Pranga); et le susdit Pavlo Kostoff, qui, d'accord avec Barkaloff, dirigent tout ensemble. Ce Barkaloff sert aussi comme moyen de communication principal, par l'entremise duquel tous les ordres émanés du Comité Central de Philippopoli se communiquent dans le canton du Kononche, et prend soin aussi pour leur stricte application aux alentours.

Les susdits Pávlo Kostoff, Georges Bozanoff, et Kosta Zaprianoff, et le nommé Louka Nédélion (ex-employé de la maison Zapraïdis, négociant Grec de Sténimaka), sont attachés entièrement au Comité sus-mentionné, dont on relève pour l'application et l'exécution de ses ordres, recevant pour cela de très-gros appointements, qui leur permettent de vivre comme des richards, quoique ne professant aucun état.

Dimanche passé, le $\frac{17}{29}$ courant, le nommé Georges Bozanoff, suivi de deux habitants du village de Topolow, est venu à Sténimaka, et en défaut du Caissier du supplément du Comité Central, a remis à Barkaloff 13,000 piastres, revenu des opérations des agents du Comité.

Enfin, Lundi, le $\frac{18}{30}$ courant, vers midi, Barkaloff, qui, comme il paraît, a pris connaissance des ordres du Gouverneur-Général au sujet de la réquisition (collection) de tous les documents, savoir, ordres, quittances, &c., émanés de la part du Comité et de

ses succursales, a envoyé le nommé Georges Bozanoff pour parcourir tous les villages du canton de Konouche, et ramasser toutes ces pièces.

Signes caractéristiques de Georges Bozanoff :—Taille, moyenne ; moustache et cheveux, blonds ; visage, rougeâtre et hâle ; age, 28 ans ; coiffé de kalpak gris, et habillé de shayiak (drap du pays).

No. 219.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 115.)

Philippopoli, March 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the printed Rules of the Gymnastic Society of Philippopoli, dated the 26th January/7th February last, and signed by the President, D. J. Stamboloff (Deputy for one of the districts in this Department and Juge d'Instruction), and by the Secretary and Treasurer, D. N. Matinski.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Rules in question are dated nearly three months after the promulgation of the Ordinances by which Aleko Pasha alleged to the Porte he had dissolved the Gymnastic Societies in this province.

They are almost identical with the Rules of the Slivno Society inclosed in my despatch No. 340 of the 7th November last.

The only divergence consists in the greater severity of the penalties attached to non-compliance.

Thus, while in the Rules of Slivno, dated the 13/25th July, 1879, the initial fine under Article 9 is 2 fr., the recent Rules of the Philippopoli Society inflicts, for the same offence, a fine of 1 fr. to 20 fr., according to the means of the transgressor. Under the later Rules also the local Society reserves to itself the right of inflicting (with the aid of their own gendarmes) fines of any amount that may be commensurate with personal means.

The greater stringency of the Rules which I have now the honour to transmit marks both a spirit of defiance towards the Ordinances of the Governor-General, and, to a great extent also, the difficulty which the Bulgarian agitators have begun to encounter in the enforcement of their arbitrary and oppressive regulations, the peasantry being, according to information which has reached me from many quarters, heartily tired of the contributions and military exercises to which they are subjected.

Article 11 of the Philippopoli Rules, prohibiting members from carrying arms, except when on duty, is evidently intended to prevent the daily exhibition and use of rifles by the peasantry, a well-established practice, of which the existence has frequently been disputed by the apologists of the gymnasts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 220.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 116.)

Philippopoli, March 6, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed article from the "Philippoupolis" of the 3rd instant explains the reasons that have prevented Mme. Aleko Pasha from giving a public ball in aid of the refugees of Eastern Roumelia.

The giving of such a ball had originally been planned at this Consulate-General, but domestic affliction had caused the arrangements to be suspended.

Mme. Aleko Pasha thereupon formed a small Committee of ladies, which she placed under the sole and special direction of M. Isvolski, the Russian Acting Consul-General.

After some hesitation as to the date on which the ball should be given, cards were issued for the 28th ultimo, and prizes collected for the lottery, which was to have been drawn in connection with the same charitable object.

But the day after the cards had been distributed Mme. Aleko Pasha was compelled to announce that neither the ball nor the lottery would take place from causes beyond her own control.

It had been represented to her at the last moment that the conversion of the

Provincial Assembly Hall into a ball room would require an expenditure of £T. 195, or nearly the entire amount that would probably be realized by the sale of the tickets for the ball.

It is, however, evident that this was only an artifice to deter Mme. Aleko Pasha from coming to the aid of the Central Refugee Committee, which had of late become very obnoxious to the Bulgarian "national party."

The organ of that party, the "Narodni Glas," had, a few days before the presentation of the estimate in question, denounced the Committee as a device of my own for the purpose of spreading calumnies against the "Bulgarian nation," a supposition which, your Lordship will recollect, militated strongly against the establishment of a Society for the relief of the Turkish refugees.

It is an equally significant fact that, immediately after that observation had appeared in the "Narodni Glas," the Bulgarian members of the Relief Committee ceased their attendance, and one of them (who is President of the Refugee Repatriation Commission) actually threated the messenger of our Committee with personal violence if he brought him any more notices of meetings.

Indeed, the connection between these manifestations and the denunciation in the "Narodni Glas" is evident from the circumstance that, when the ball and the lottery were given up, the organ of the national party expressed its exultation at the fact that Mme. Aleko Pasha had "listened to the national voice."

I have however good reason to believe that the indignation of the Greek and foreign communities at the success of the Bulgarian intrigue is more than shared by Mme. Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Extract from the "Philppoupolis" of March 3, 1880.

BAL AU PROFIT DES RÉFUGIÉS DE LA ROUMÉLIE ORIENTALE.—Encore une entreprise tombée dans l'eau.

Samedi dernier un bal devait se donner dans le local de l'Assemblée Provinciale, sous le haut patronage de Mme. la Princesse Bogoridi, au profit des réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale. Grand fut notre étonnement lorsque, dans la matinée du même jour, on nous informa que le bal projeté n'allait plus avoir lieu.

On se perd en conjectures sur les causes qui ont fait avorter cette fête ; et plusieurs versions courent sur cet événement, qui était appelé à faire époque dans les annales chorégraphiques de notre ville. Désireux de satisfaire la curiosité de nos lecteurs, nous nous empressons d'exposer ici les véritables raisons pour lesquelles l'œuvre philanthropique en question n'a pas eu lieu.

En Roumélie Orientale, et surtout à Philippopoli, on se plaît à donner à la moindre parole innocente, à l'action la plus généreuse, un sens politique ; aussi est-ce pour cela que des canéans et des commérages se font en moins de rien. Voilà ce qui a eu justement lieu pour le bal en question.

Dès que l'intention de Mme. la Princesse fut connue, aussitôt un courant contraire se forma, qui grossit encore davantage lorsqu'on apprit qu'à défaut de meilleur local le bal devait se donner dans celui de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Convertir un bain public en Assemblée Provinciale, cela n'a semblé avoir rien d'étonnant, bien que le public y perde quelque peu sur le rapport de la propreté. Mais vouloir changer le sanctuaire où se réunit l'Aréopage Rouméliote, ou plutôt la majorité Bulgare, en une salle de bal, surtout lorsque ce bal se donne au profit des réfugiés Turcs, voilà qui n'est pas pardonnable aux yeux des Bulgares. Les sept péchés capitaux pris ensemble ne sont rien à côté de ce crime de lèse-Comités Secrets?

Telle est la véritable raison pour laquelle la fête projetée n'a pas eu lieu. Dans ce pays travaillé par les Comités Secrets, tout ce qui se fait et se dit à la sourdine est aussi la chose la plus vraie et la plus positive.

Mais Mme. la Princesse s'était trop avancée pour pouvoir reculer sans que le public en fût instruit. On se trouvait par conséquent dans l'alternative ou de blesser la délicatesse de Mme. Bogoridi, ou de présenter la raison de l'avortement du bal sous un faux jour. La chose était facile, surtout en ces jours de carnaval, où l'on a l'habitude de se masquer en scaramouche, en arlequin, en pierrot, &c.

Tout était prêt pour le bal ; un choix assorti de lots, offerts par différentes

personnes, se trouvait chez Mme. Crestovitch; le Comité Organisateur avait pris toutes ses dispositions au sujet du programme de la fête; les dames avaient déjà pensé à tous ces petits riens indispensables à leur toilette; il ne restait plus que la décoration de la salle. Ici nous devons avouer que Mme. la Princesse, malgré tout le respect que nous lui devons, avait compté sans son hôte; et l'hôte en cette circonstance était un certain Baratti, architecte hors ligne (!!!) au service de la Direction également hors ligne, de nos Travaux Publics, &c.

Ce monsieur reçut l'ordre de faire un exposé de ce que devaient coûter la décoration et la disposition de la salle. Après une longue série de calculs algébrique, notre *archi*-fameux *archi*-tecte trouva qu'il fallait dépenser à ce travail la bagatelle de £T. 195. Pour arriver à ce chiffre, il s'y prit de la manière suivante:

	P. or.
Construction d'un escalier devant conduire à la grande salle	2,000
Déclouage et reclouage de la Chaire Présidentielle de l'Assemblée ainsi que des deux siéges latéraux	6,000
Réparation de la natte de la Grande Tribune	200
Construction d'échafaudages pour suspendre les lustres, &c.	1,500
Quatre chassis en bois pour bougies	800
Réparation générale de la salle	4,000
Réparation de la peinture et autres	5,000
Total	19,500

Ce compte est admirable d'exactitude, et prouve en outre que l'architecte en question sait ce que veut dire le mot économie. Vingt livres Turques pour la construction d'un simple escalier en bois de 7 mètres de longueur! Quelle horreur! L'opulent Jacob de la Bible, qui avait l'habitude de voir des échelles même en son sommeil, aurait reculé devant ce chiffre.

La Tribune de l'Assemblée et les deux siéges latéraux peuvent se déplacer facilement, parce qu'ils sont mobiles; cependant, d'après le savant architecte, il ne faut pas moins de 60 livres pour les remettre en place. Avec 60 livres on peut aller en premières jusqu'à New-York et en revenir. Si M. Baratte ou Baratti, peu importe le nom, ne nous croit pas, il n'a qu'à essayer ce voyage en Amérique, où il pourra rencontrer peut-être quelque habile *manicure*, dont il a grandement besoin.

Il faut aussi 40 livres pour la réparation de la salle, et 50 autres pour en repeindre à neuf les murs et le plafond. Pour notre part, nous avouons que nous ne voyons pas très-clair dans les calculs de cet architecte d'eau douce; et nous sommes sûr que lui-même n'y voit que du bien. Quelles sont donc les réparations qu'on devrait faire et pourquoi retoucherait-on à la peinture, du moment qu'elle ne serait nullement dédommagée, les lustres devant être suspendus à des échafaudages?

N'oublions pas non plus de faire observer que M. Baratti, en homme de grande prévoyance, prend aussi à cœur les affaires d'État du pays. Avant de commencer à faire ses comptes, il demanda à quelle époque devait se réunir l'Assemblée; car pour ramener la salle à son état primitif, il lui aurait fallu, dit-il, une affaire de vingt jours, ni plus ni moins. Son Rapport porte la date du 11 Février; le bal devrait avoir lieu le 19, c'est-à-dire huit jours plus tard, d'où il résulte que l'architecte émérité des Travaux Publics avait besoin de vingt jours pour détruire ce qu'il allait faire en huit.

Après cela, nous nous expliquons parfaitement l'indignation de Mme. la Princesse, qui rencontra tant d'obstacles dans l'exécution de son projet. Mue par des sentiments purement philanthropiques, elle voulut secourir les malheureux réfugiés; mais à la vue des misères qu'on lui avait suscitées de tous côtés, elle n'hésita pas à se désister du patronage de la fête projetée. Cependant elle n'oublia pas les réfugiés: elle leur offrit £T. 20, et une somme égale, le Prince Bogoridi.

Quelques prières qu'on lui fit plus tard à Mme. la Princesse de permettre au moins le tirage de la loterie, elle se montra inébranlable dans sa résolution. Les différents lots seront rendus aux personnes charitables, qui ont bien voulu les mettre à la disposition du Comité Organisateur au profit des réfugiés.

Avant de terminer, qu'il nous soit permis de faire une toute petite observation:

Du moment que pour de pareilles bagatelles il aurait fallu £T. 195 qu'a-t-on donc dépensé pour convertir l'ancien bain en Assemblée Provinciale? Nous sommes curieux de connaître ce compte qu'on persiste à ne pas montrer à qui de droit.

No. 221.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 6, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 37 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of the Report which was addressed to the Governor-General last night by Colonel de Toustain, Chief of the Staff, on the subject of the proceedings of the militia and gymnasts in the Department of Haskeui.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 221.

Report by Colonel de Toustain.

Philippopoli, le 5 Mars, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de rendre compte à votre Excellence des faits qui se sont accomplis depuis l'entrée de la colonne commandée par le Capitaine Zuteroff dans le district de Kirdjali. D'après les renseignements qui ont été transmis à votre Excellence par M. le Préfet de Haskeui que certain mouvement occasionné par l'arrivée en territoire Rouméliote d'un certain nombre de Bachi-Bozouks exigerait l'emploi de la force armée pour ramener la sécurité et la tranquillité dans cette partie du département de Haskeui. En ce moment un détachement de la droujine de Haskeui, forte de 250 hommes, sous le commandement du Lieutenant Engueigard se trouvait sur la limite des deux districts de Kirdjali et de Haskeui. Les Bachi-Bozouks, d'après le rapport du Caïmacam de Kirdjali, se trouvaient au nombre de 1,000 se disposant à envahir les quelques villages qui se trouvent dans cette région. M. le Préfet de Haskeui me communiqua une dépêche télégraphique de son Excellence le Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, par laquelle ce haut fonctionnaire l'invitait à s'entendre avec moi pour mettre à sa disposition, conformément à l'Article 498 du Statut Organique, les troupes nécessaires à ramener l'ordre là où il avait disparu. J'avais alors télégraphié au Général Commandant la Milice et la Gendarmerie que je pensais le mouvement bien exagéré; le Général Strecker me répondit que mes dépêches rassurantes ne concordaient nullement avec les dépêches du Secrétaire-Général, et que je devais me mettre en relation avec le Préfet en demandant les instructions de ce dernier. J'obéis, et je présentai à M. le Préfet de Haskeui le Capitaine Yacheroff comme devant commander, d'après les ordres du Général, les opérations militaires, si ces opérations devaient avoir lieu. M. le Capitaine Yacheroff reçut directement du Préfet de Haskeui connaissance des faits qui étaient rapportés par le Caïmacam de Kirdjali. Je fis partir la droujine de Haskeui, le Jeudi, 14 Février, forte de 800 hommes, pour renforcer les détachements de la frontière, et j'indiquai au Capitaine Yacheroff de rester à Dedeler et d'y attendre les événements.

Le Samedi suivant, deux jours après, j'appris que les réservistes* avaient été convoqués; en présence de cette grave nouvelle je télégraphiai au Général Strecker en le priant de m'autoriser à quitter Haskeui, où j'avais été envoyé au sujet de l'enquête du Capitaine Lobonowsky, et d'aller me rendre compte de ce qui se passait sur la frontière.

Le Général Strecker m'autorisa immédiatement. Malheureusement, l'affaire du Capitaine Lobonowsky prenant une tournure excessivement délicate, je fus obligé de retarder mon départ jusqu'au Dimanche.

Ce jour-là je partis et, arrivé au villages Bulgares, Dedeler, et Assova, où je comptais trouver la colonne, j'appris qu'elle était partie et qu'elle avait fait son entrée dans le district de Kirdjali. En poursuivant ma route j'aperçus dans le lointain un village qui brûlait, c'était Babalar. Sur ma route les villages Turcs que je traversai étaient abandonnés; alors se présenta à mon esprit cette réflection: les villages Turcs ont-ils été ainsi abandonnés par leurs habitants faisant cause commune avec les Bachi-Bozouks, ou les habitants ont-ils eu peur de l'entrée de nos troupes et ont-ils fui devant elles; la situation changerait énormément; au lieu de ramener le calme dans le pays nous semblerions y mettre le désordre. Vers le soir j'atteignis à Otoclar la colonne du Capitaine Yacheroff; lorsque j'aperçus les réservistes je manifestai au Capitaine mon étonnement de la

* i.e., members of the Gymnastic Society.—T. M.

présence de ces gens armés, et je lui demandai en vertu de quelles instructions ils étaient là. Le Capitaine Yacheroff me répondit que c'était lui-même qui les avait requis; que les miliciens dont il disposait ne lui paraissaient pas suffisants pour opposer une force à celle dont les Bachi-Bozouks disposaient; que la veille ils avaient été reçus à coups de fusil à Babalar; que dans ce petit engagement ils avaient eu trois blessés et un tué, et que le village avait été incendié par les Bachi-Bozouks. Le Capitaine Yacheroff ajouta que pendant la nuit des coups de fusil avaient été tirés et que des balles étaient venues s'applatir sur les murs de la maison qu'il habitait.

Tout en reconnaissant la manière impolitique et irréfléchie que l'on avait suivie en appelant les réservistes, je ne pus ce jour-là faire renvoyer les réservistes, étant donné, au point de vue militaire, la situation qui m'était décrite et que je ne pouvais vérifier en si peu de temps.

Je donnai l'ordre au Capitaine Yacheroff d'occuper quelques positions où il pourrait se tenir sur la défensive. Je lui expliquai qu'il fallait renvoyer immédiatement ces réservistes dont la présence serait plus que commentée et qui ne présentant aucune garantie au point de vue de la discipline, ne pourrait que nous provoquer des conséquences fâcheuses pour le bien de la Roumélie Orientale; que, au surplus, ces réservistes n'ayant pas un service de vivre assuré, ne pouvaient rester dans ces conditions. La nuit arrivant je laissai le Capitaine opérer son mouvement. Le lendemain matin, Lundi, je le rejoignis à Hodja Kachlar; j'avais appris que des perquisitions se faisaient dans les maisons, qu'elles étaient fouillées, et que les armes particulières des individus étaient confisquées. Je donnai l'ordre de cesser ces genres de perquisitions en demandant au Capitaine Yacheroff si parmi les instructions qu'il avait reçues il avait eu mission d'agir ainsi; la plupart des officiers étaient présents à ces entretiens. J'étais malheureusement seul de mon avis, quoique leur chef; ils ne supposaient pas que mes paroles étaient l'expression franche et loyale de l'homme qui ne se dissimulait point les difficultés qu'une pareille conduite allait soulever pour le pays. Cette fuite de la population Turque; cette entrée de miliciens guidés par des officiers inexpérimentés, ne calculant pas le lendemain, ne voyant qu'un pays qu'un semblait devoir conquérir, tout cela m'attristait profondément. Je donnai des ordres pour que de pareils faits ne se renouvelassent point. Craignant avec juste raison des excès commis par une jeune troupe inconsciente de ce qu'elle faisait, j'invitai dans chaque village où je me trouvais les individus qui étaient restés, de se réunir avec leurs femmes dans certaines maisons que je leur indiquai, et de parquer tout leur bétail dans des enclos que je faisais garder.

Mardi soir la colonne ayant atteint sans encombre le village d'Akboular où s'étaient réfugiés, disait-on, tous les Bachi-Bozouks, je pensai que la colonne ne devait pas aller en avant et qu'elle avait assez parcouru de pays. Comme j'ai eu l'honneur de vous le dire, M. le Gouverneur-Général, il n'y avait de population Turque sur notre route; tout avait fui.

Mardi soir, à Akboular, je réunissais tous les officiers de la colonne; je leur expliquai qu'à mon point de vue tout était fini pour le moment. Différents officiers me demandèrent qu'à mon point de vue tout était fini pour le moment. Différents officiers me demandèrent à pousser la colonne jusqu'à Kirdjali même. Je refusai; la conversation s'animant j'entendis émettre les théories les plus étranges.

Quelques-uns parlaient de mettre le feu à certaines maisons appartenant à des Chefs de Bachi-Bozouks. Je me recriai avec indignation et je leur dis en termes excessivement vifs qu'il n'y avait que des ennemis de la Roumélie Orientale qui pouvaient avoir des idées pareilles; que cet acte était non-seulement brutal et inhumain, mais encore plus impolitique, et je réitérai mon ordre de partir. Là-dessus le Capitaine Yacheroff me dit: "Mon Colonel, laissez-nous rester ici; j'écrirai aux populations Turques de revenir et elles reviendront; nous ne pouvons pas partir avant que toutes ces canailles soient rentrées." Je répondis au Capitaine: "En dehors de votre métier d'officier, avez-vous reçu mission de faire politique et administration? Je ne le pense pas; veuillez donc exécuter mes ordres."

"Mon Colonel," me dit-il, "je suis Slavophile, et je ne veux que le bien de la Roumélie Orientale."

"Je ne sais," lui ai-je répondu, "et ne veux pas savoir ce que c'est que Slavophile; je ne suis que le service militaire; je vous donne un ordre et vous devez l'exécuter." Les officiers se retirèrent. Je fis écrire au Capitaine de la gendarmerie, Réout, par laquelle je l'avertissais que la colonne partait; qu'il devait rester avec ses gendarmes et un piquet de cinquante fantassins pris dans la milice, afin de s'assurer que la colonne partie, il ne restait personne en arrière, et que les villages restaient tels que la colonne les avait trouvés. Le lendemain matin, Mercredi, je réitérai mes ordres et redonnai verbalement mes instructions au Capitaine Réout. Je partis en avant afin de rencontrer le Général Streeker, qui attendait impatiemment de nos nouvelles. J'avais donné l'ordre au Lieutenant Walter, commandant le peloton de cavalerie de me rejoindre. En sortant du village quelle ne fut mon indignation quand j'aperçus une maison Turque que j'avais visitée la veille

complétement brûlée. Le feu avait dû être mis pendant la nuit. Je manifestai mon indignation à mon Aide-de-camp, le Lieutenant Tyankoff, lorsque ce dernier me dit: "Mais regardez donc, Colonel." Je me retournai et je vis que le village que je venais de quitter complétement en feu. Sur la droite et la gauche de ce village étaient deux petits hameaux qui étaient la proie des flammes. Le Lieutenant Walter qui me rejoignit en ce moment me dit: "Je vous ai fait attendre, mon Colonel; j'étais obligé de me détourner de ma route, car pensant vous rejoindre à la maison où vous avez couché, j'étais surpris par un incendie considérable qu'on y allumait." Je ne puis vous peindre, M. le Gouverneur-Général toute ma colère et mon chagrin: dans ma capacité militaire j'assistai dans un acte de vandalisme que rien ne justifiait. Et dans ma profonde sympathie pour une province où j'avais l'honneur de remplir les fonctions de Chef d'Etat-Major, je voyais une source de difficultés et d'ennuis suscités par des imbéciles. Je donnai l'ordre au Capitaine Yacheroff par l'intermédiaire de la gendarmerie de faire immédiatement une enquête et sous sa propre responsabilité d'avoir à vous délivrer les coupables.

En resumé, sans cet événement déplorable, quelque impolitique que fut pour le moment l'entrée de la milice dans le Kirdjali, on n'avait rien à lui reprocher.

En effet, des malfaiteurs s'étaient introduits dans la province. Ils avaient cherché à égarer l'opinion des habitants de Kirdjali, qui ne demandent qu'à vivre en paix; une force armée a apparu; ces révoltés ont disparu devant elle, sans tirer un coup de fusil, et sont allés par-là d'où ils étaient venus.

Malheureusement un crime odieux a été commis. La justice en est maintenant saisie. Satisfaction sera donnée. Ce sera la meilleure preuve que la Roumélie Orientale n'a point voulu se rendre responsable de ces actes de vandalisme que rien ne justifie et que tout honnête homme réprouve.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Baron G. DE TOUSTAIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 221.

Rules for the Instruction of the Gymnastic Rifle Society of Plovdiv.

(Translation from the Bulgarian.)

ARTICLE 1. The object of exercising the Gymnastic Society of Plovdiv is to prepare the Christian population for the defence of the country against the invasion of any enemy (soever), for the preservation of faith, life, honour, and property, in conformity with the confirmed statutes of the Gymnastic Societies.

Art. 2. All persons between the ages of 18 and 45, capable of bearing arms, and belonging to the Christian population, shall be considered members of the Gymnastic Society, and shall be enrolled in infantry and cavalry.

Art. 3. Exercise (drill) is obligatory on all members capable of bearing arms.

Observation.—The administration of the Society shall have the right to liberate from such obligation all persons who may be placed in an exceptional position, such as teachers, doctors, Presidents of Councils, and others.

Art. 4. Instruction (drill) shall take place once a week on a day that shall be fixed by the Society, except the commanders of companies, troops, and squads, which shall drill twice a week. The Society has likewise the right, whenever it shall find necessary, to increase the number of days for drill beyond the number of one day per week.

Art. 5. Every member during instruction (drill) is bound to submit to his Chiefs in all matters appertaining to drill, just like regular soldiers. Every member shall likewise be bound to submit, even when not under instruction (drill), to all orders issued by the Chiefs in respect to the fulfilment of their service duties, such as mounting guard, patrol (foot and mounted) duty, escort duty, and various work for the Gymnastic Society.

Observation.—No person who is not a member of the Society shall be accepted as a substitute for sentry or patrol duty.

Art. 6. Military drill and sentry duty shall be performed in accordance with existing regulations.

Art. 7. No member of the Gymnastic Society shall pass from the infantry into the cavalry, and *vice versâ*, except by order of the Society.

Art. 8. Any member who, owing to a reasonable cause, shall be unable to take part in those duties, shall give notice thereof, either verbally or in writing, to the captain of his company in the case of infantry, or to the commander of his troop in the case of cavalry. Any person who shall wilfully abuse permission to that effect for the purpose of avoiding compliance with the above (Articles) shall be punished under Article 9.

Art. 9. Any member who shall avoid instruction (drill), or who shall avoid the performance of other service (duties), such as sentry and patrol duty, &c., shall be liable to the following punishments:—

(*a.*) For the first time, from 1 fr. to 20 fr., according to the condition of the man.

(*b.*) For the second time, this fine shall be doubled.

(*c.*) For the third time, this fine shall be trebled, and the offender shall be placed for three days under close arrest.

(*d.*) For the fourth time, his musket (rifle) shall be publicly taken from him in the presence of all the regiments ("drugines"), with observations on his conduct, and expulsion from the Society.

Persons thus expulsed shall be noted as opponents of the object of the Society, and shall be considered as enemies of the country.

Observation (1).—The above punishments shall be inflicted, one after the other, on those who shall absent themselves consecutively; in other cases the first punishment shall be repeated.

Observation (2).—The punishments specified in Article 9 shall be inflicted by the orders of the Society, in conformity with the rules established in respect to subordination, *i.e.*, the captains of companies shall report the guilty parties to the commanders of "drugines" (regiments), and the latter to the Society. The Society has the right to inflict a fine in all cases, in proportion with the means (of the offender), and after the fine shall have been fixed an order shall be given to the gendarme of each company for the collection of the same. But should any captain (commander of company) abuse the confidence placed in him, he shall be punished instead of being accused (?).

Article 10. Each company shall have two policemen, who shall encash fines from offenders, and summon or convey such as belong to the company.

Observation.—Whoever shall not submit to the payment of the fine inflicted upon him shall be placed under arrest for a time proportionate to the amount of the fine, 2 fr. being considered as the equivalent of one day's arrest.

Art. 11. No member shall have the right to carry arms except at the time of instruction (drill), or when on duty.

Art. 12. Members who shall fail to keep clean and in order the arms given to them by the Society shall be punished, for the first time, by "carrying arms" during half an hour; for the second time, "carrying arms" during half an hour and paying a fine of 1 fr.; for the third time, "carrying arms" for half an hour and a fine of 2 fr. The punishment for the second and third times shall be inflicted when the rifle (of any member) shall not be clean at three consecutive drills; in the contrary case the first punishment shall be inflicted.

Art. 13. Should any sentry while mounting guard neglect (infringe) his duties, in consequence of which the seals, keys, boxes, or other objects which he had been placed to guard shall be damaged, or if any of the objects over which he shall have been placed as sentry shall be lost, or if any prisoner should escape, in all such cases, besides the sentry, the captains of companies and sergeants-major shall likewise be responsible, under the Regulations, respecting the duty of mounting guard.

Art. 14. The above Rules may, if found necessary, be amplified by the Society.

Ploudiv, January 31/February 13, 1880.

(Signed) DIM. H. STAMBOLOFF, *President.*
D. N. MATINFSKI, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

No. 222.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 118.)

Philippopoli, March 6, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed Article from the "Philippoupolis" of this date comments upon the action of the Bulgarian Secret Committees, and more especially on the Circular recently launched against the Greeks.

It is preceded by a somewhat imperfect translation of that Circular.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 222.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of March 6, 1880.

Le "Vakit" a publié en résumé la Proclamation lancée par le Comité Secret aux villageois Bulgares. Afin de compléter la publication de notre confrère Turc nous donnons la traduction fidèle du document en question, dont nous sommes à même de garantir l'authenticité.

"SOCIÉTÉ PROVINCIALE DE TIR ET DE GYMNASTIQUE.

"No.

"Au Conseil des Anciens du village

"Honorables Messieurs, "*Plovdiv*, , 18 .

"A la réception de la présente vous prendrez sans délai les mesures suivantes:—

"1. Vous convoquerez une Assemblée des membres des Anciens et vous y inviterez, entre autres, ceux des vieillards de votre village qui, il y a trente ans, avaient la gestion de vos affaires. Une fois cela fait, vous délibérerez, et chacun de vous tâchera de se souvenir qui de son village et en quoi a contribué à la construction de l'Eglise de Ste. Marine, sise à Plovdiv, dont les "Grécomanes," après s'en être emparés, ont fait leur métropole. Vous dresserez procès-verbal pour les sommes d'argent et la quantité de blé, de seigle d'orge, et de maïs, &c., que vous avez données à cet effet. Vous direz de quelle manière ont eu lieu ces contributions; si par exemple la donation en blé a eu lieu à domicile ou aux champs ou par kilés, ou encore en comptant par couple (*sic*). Vous direz aussi qui sont ceux qui, n'ayant pas de blé, ont donné un kilé et demi de seigle ou deux kilés d'orge ou de maïs. Vous constaterez à quel endroit vous l'avez déposé et aux mains de qui vous l'avez livré. Vous direz aussi combien de fois vous avez été appelé à Plovdiv et combien de jours y avez-vous travaillé en corvée avec vos arabas, vos bêtes, et d'autre manière encore. Ce procès-verbal portera votre sceau et sera signé par le Conseil des Anciens et contresigné par tous les vieillards qui ont contribué à la construction de la dite église, soit encore en payant de leur personne. Vous nous enverrez ce procès-verbal le plus tôt possible.

"Vous ferez en sorte que le premier Dimanche ou jour de fête, votre curé fasse au sortir de l'église prêter serment solennel à ses paroissiens qu'ils ne donneront jamais rien aux Grécomanes, et qu'ils n'en prendront non plus rien. Si quelque marchand ou courtier Grécomane venait à se présenter dans votre village, le premier pour vous vendre ses marchandises, le second pour vous acheter vos grains, vous inviterez poliment et gentiment l'un et l'autre à quitter votre village. Lorsque vous viendrez dans la ville pour acheter quelque chose, vous vous arrangerez de façon à ne donner votre argent à aucun Grécomane. Vous pouvez faire vos emplettes chez les Arméniens, les Juifs, les Turcs, les Tzingans, mais jamais chez les Grécomanes, car ce sont eux qui sont nos plus grands ennemis, et des ennemis tels que, tout en se nourrissant et s'engraissant à nos dépens, ils creusent tous les jours notre fosse. Ce serait faire acte de folie que de leur permettre de nous frapper à la tête avec nos propres pierres. Si quelqu'un des Grécommes possède quelque tchiflik ou toute autre propriété, vous vous en éloignerez comme d'un lieu pestiféré. Que personne de vous ne travaille dans leurs champs. Si encore quelqu'un d'eux possède dans votre village des moulins ou des magasins, vous y mettrez jamais le pied, afin que tout cela devienne un désert. Si quelqu'un de vos compatriotes reçoit chez lui un Grécomane; s'il lui vend ou lui achète quelque chose en venant à la ville, vous punirez son aveuglement en l'obligeant à payer une amende pour être affectée à l'entretien de votre école communale. Ce sont les Grécommes qui, par leurs actes abominables, ont amené nos ennemis à morceler, à diviser notre patrie en cinq; ce sont eux qui travaillent encore jour et nuit à propager contre notre nation les plus noires calomnies, espérant par-là réussir à faire rétablir l'autorité Turque dans le pays. Cela ne pourra jamais avoir lieu; nous devons cependant faire entendre raison à ces êtres exécrables.

"Nous sommes convaincus que vous exécuterez à la lettre nos ordres.

"Agréez, &c.

"Pour le Président, le Trésorier-Gérant,

(Signé) "D. N. MATIEFSKI."

L'existence des Comités, leurs machinations infernales, les moyens auxquels ils ont recours—moyens qui font honte à notre siècle, sont aujourd'hui connus et par les Représentants des Puissances et par le Gouvernement Local lui-même. Une Circulaire

de M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur aux Préfets ordonne la solution immédiate de ses Comités ainsi que la saisie des sommes qu'ils ont arrachées aux villageois par violence et fourberie. Maintenant surgit la question de savoir si ces ordres sévères du Gouvernement seront exécutés à la lettre. Il y a des antécédents qui justifient quelqu'un d'en douter. Mais ces antécédents doivent justement servir de leçons au Gouvernement qui ne doit pas se contenter seulement à publier des Décrets et lancer des Circulaires, mais aussi à contrôler la conduite de ses employés et à s'informer jusqu'à quel point ses ordres sont exécutés. La meilleure recommandation d'un bon Gouvernement est d'examiner scrupuleusement les actes de ses fonctionnaires. Lorsque le Gouvernement Rouméliote se décidera à aviser aux moyens qui peuvent annuler l'influence toute-puissante des Comités sur les autorités subalternes, alors il pourra s'établir dans ce malheureux pays un état de choses régulier, comme le désire son Excellence, dont la dévise est: "Les nations sont heureuses lorsqu'elles sont bien gouvernées."

Mais malgré l'existence officiellement constatée des Comités il n'y a que les organes Bulgares qui, après avoir gardé un silence de mort pendant tout le temps que les Conseils se succédaient au conak et que les Consuls se consultaient quant au moyens à prendre pour sauvegarder les intérêts de leurs Gouvernements, il n'y a, disons-nous, que ces organes, qui viennent aujourd'hui déclarer que tout ce qui se dit au sujet de ces Comités n'est que pure invention. Nous demandons si, avec ce silence significatif et en lisant les dits journaux, qui ont soin de faire des faits historiques, il serait possible de supposer que le monde puisse apprendre ce qui se passe dans le pays.

Le "Narodni Glas," par exemple, organe du Comité (nous pouvons le prouver quand on voudra), publie un article dans lequel, après avoir protesté contre l'existence des Comités Bulgares, annonce qu'il a découvert quelque Comité composé de Grecs et d'étrangers, qui a son siége et tient ses réunions à Djambaz-Tépé. Cette Société, à en croire le journal en question, aurait pour programme de dénigrer et de calomnier le Gouvernement, de lui susciter des embarras et de travailler à faire revenir les Turcs. Le "Narodni Glas" appelle l'attention sérieuse du Gouvernement sur les prétendus agissements des Grecs et des Européens, et invite tous les Bulgares de bien réfléchir sur un sujet, qui, vu sa gravité, ne peut, dit-il, que saper les fondements de l'édifice Bulgare.

Ces déclarations du "Narodni Glas," quelque fausses qu'elles soient, ont une certaine signification. En effet, il n'est pas difficile d'y voir un moyen d'exciter la haine du peuple Bulgare contre les Grecs et les Européens. Mais le plus comique de l'affaire, c'est que la feuille précitée veut que le Gouvernement joue le rôle de Don Quichotte, qui allait chercher des forteresses là où il n'y a même pas des moulins à vent.

Ce qu'il y a de vrai dans tout cela, c'est sur la colline de Djambaz-Tépé qu'on a pu lever un coin du voile qui couvrait les actes mystérieux des Comités. On sait que le Corps Consulaire, dont le devoir est de veiller sur la situation de la province, tient ordinairement ses Conseils à cette partie de la ville. C'est là aussi qu'habitent la plupart des membres de la Société de Secours aux Réfugiés, dont la mission est loin de se concilier avec les tendances des Comités, qui travaillent dans le but bien arrêté de faire disparaître du sol Rouméliote les éléments Turc et Grec.

On voit bien par ce qui précède qu'il n'y a point lieu de s'étonner de l'indignation du "Narodni Glas" et de son appel aux Bulgares—appel qui ne peut certes pas rassurer les Grecs ainsi que la colonie Européenne, parce qu'il est fait dans un esprit de fanatisme facile à deviner.

Tel est le Comité de Djambaz-Tépé dont parle le "Narodni Glas." Tous ceux qui s'intéressent au bien du pays, tous ceux qui ont en horreur les idées subversives des Sociétés Gymnastiques, tous les hommes de bien qui travaillent avec abnégation au soulagement des malheureux, peuvent s'inscrire membres du Comité en question, parce que ce Comité n'a rien de commun avec ces autres dirigés par un tas de perturbateurs de l'ordre public, qui ne rougissent pas de sucer le sang du pauvre paysan.

M. V. Julius, Chef de Section pour le service technique, fait dire à la "Maritza" à propos de notre article sur le bal au profit des réfugiés, que M. Baratta n'est pas un architecte au service de la Direction des Travaux Publics, mais une simple conducteur attaché à cette Direction. Nous répondons que le démenti qu'il veut nous donner n'a

aucune valeur à nos yeux. Un fait reste acquis de toute cette malheureuse affaire c'est que M. Baratta, architecte ou attaché, a été, contre sa volonté peut-être, le principal instrument dans les mains de ceux qui ont mis tout en œuvre pour faire échouer une entreprise destinée à procurer du pain à des milliers de malheureux.

On sait la fâcheuse situation de la plupart des habitants de l'Arménie. Cette province a beaucoup souffert pendant la dernière guerre; maintenant encore la famine la plus terrible fait des ravages parmi les habitants. Ces êtres malheureux ont les yeux attachés sur les hommes charitables à qui ils ne demandent que du pain.

Plusieurs Comités ont été organisés en Europe et en Turquie pour venir en aide à ces infortunés. Un pareil Comité est aussi formé par les Arméniens de notre ville, qui ont ouvert une souscription. Ce Comité est présidé par M. Artin Guédicoff. Nous invitons nos honorables lecteurs ainsi que tous les philanthropes de prendre part à cette souscription en faveur de l'humanité souffrante.

No. 223.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 119.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 35 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report, on the strength of a statement in the "Maritza," that Mr. J. S. Gueshoff, the President of the Provincial Assembly, has also received a decoration from the Emperor of Russia, namely, that of the Order of St. Anne of the Second Class.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 224.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 7, 1880.*

ON the 2nd instant a Mass and Te Deum were celebrated at the Bulgarian Church in this town on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Accession of the Emperor Alexander II to the Throne of all the Russias.

The ceremony was attended by the Governor-General, the Directors, the Military Officers, and Civil Officials, and by the leading Bulgarian Notables, as well as by the Consular Body, which had received official notice of the ceremony from the Russian Acting Consul-General.

A Bulgarian Archimandrite delivered a short allocution in which the great deeds of the "Tzar Liberator" were extolled in appropriate terms, His Majesty being designated as the Terrestrial Father of the Bulgarians.

In the evening a ball was given by the Russian Officers of the Militia and Gendarmerie in commemoration of the same happy occasion.

Under the judicious arrangements made by Mr. Isvolsky, the only toast at the supper was that of the Emperor of Russia.

I had the pleasure of assisting also at the ball, together with my Consular colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 225.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 121.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of eleven petitions from Mussulmans in the vicinity of Philippopoli, asking either the Governor-General or myself for the redress of a variety of grievances.

The petitions addressed to this Consulate-General are only the duplicates of those which have been deposited at the konak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Eryler.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Eryler, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 233 familles, composées de 836 personnes, adultes et enfants. Nos maisons étant en ruines, nous demeurons dans des huttes. Nous supportons malgré nous ces souffrances; mais le manque de nourriture nous laisse au désespoir.

L'autorité d'ici a référé notre affaire au Bailli de Hadji-Elles. Mais aucune suite n'a été donnée à cette affaire, et nous sommes réduits dans la plus profonde misère.

Depuis lors vingt-deux personnes sont mortes de faim.

Nous vous prions de grâce d'envoyer un délégué et voir notre pitoyable état. Si dans l'espace de quelques jours nous n'aurons pas de quoi vivre nous serons tous perdus.

Espérons, M. le Consul-Général, que vous prendrez les mesures nécessaires pour ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 5 cachets des Notables.)

Philippopoli, le 20 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Temreche.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Temreche, district du Rhodope, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Les villageois Chrétiens du village de Démirdji Lilkova entrent armés dans nos bois et les détruisent.

Pour faire cesser ces procédés nous avons porté plainte à l'autorité de Tcheupenle, qui a donné des ordres à ces mauvais sujets, mais ceux-ci n'obéissent nullement et continuent leurs exercices barbares; de cette manière il est impossible à nos villageois Musulmans de se rendre à leurs bois, si cela continue; ainsi il est clair que nous finirons par être tués par ces malfaiteurs.

Nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez nécessaires pour ne pas permettre à ces gens de circuler avec des armes dans nos bois et nous laisser en paix.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Représentant des Villageois Musulmans de Temreche.
(Signé) HASSAN OGLOU ALI.

Philippopoli, le 25 *Janvier* (v.s.), 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant de Bazardjik, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Lorsque j'ai émigré de Tatar-Bazardjik j'ai laissé des propriétés qui ont été détruites par les Bulgares, qui ont pris possession de mes vignes ainsi que de mes champs, dont ils ont fait un cimetière. Ayant aussi perdu tous mes revenus, je me trouve au désespoir et vous prie de faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos pour me faire rentrer en possession de mes biens ou de me faire avoir une indemnité.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) AHMED.

Philippopoli, le 26 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Kezanlik.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant Musulman de Kezanlik, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Ma ferme est située à Kozloudja; pendant l'occupation Russe les produits ont été enlevés et je n'ai rien pu obtenir à l'instar de mes jardins de roses, dont je n'ai pris les revenus pour deux ans.

Suivant notre droit, la moitié des récoltes de foin, raisins, légumes, haricots, choux, noix, pommes, et poires était donnée par les Russes; cependant, nous autres, nous n'avons absolument rien reçu. Dans ma ferme existait 20,000 oques de foin; j'ignore si ce foin et les produits de ma ferme ont été vendus par les Russes ou les villageois Bulgares ont vendu ma ferme, et j'ignore à qui.

De cette ferme il n'existe que les fondements.

Je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès de qui de droit afin de me faire avoir ce qui me revient de mes produits et me restituer mes propriétés.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Du district de Kezanlik,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA BIN MEHMED.

Philippopoli, le 29 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Oumour Tchouli.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, originaire de l'Asie, suis venu du temps de la guerre au village Oumour Tchouli, district de Kezanlik. Dans ce village je me suis marié avec la fille Bektacho Néaman.

Au moment de l'occupation des Russes, ces derniers m'ont fait prisonnier et m'ont amené en Russie. Après la guerre j'ai été envoyé à Constantinople et de là avec les réfugiés du village Oumour Tchouli, je suis revenu dans mon village, où j'ai été nommé Moultar.

En qualité du Moultar du village, vu les irrégularités de nos villageois Bulgares, j'ai prié en privé à ces derniers de ne pas continuer leurs agissements, et de vivre avec nous comme des frères.

Cependant nos compatriotes Bulgares ont porté des plaintes contre moi au Bailli de Kezanlik. Ce dernier a envoyé deux gendarmes à notre village pour me faire comparaître devant les autorités.

A mon arrivée à Kezanlik le Bailli m'a donné des ordres sévères pour ne plus retourner à mon village, et m'a dit que je dois trouver une habitation pour pouvoir rester toujours à Kezanlik. Mais comme j'avais mes enfants au village, je suis allé rejoindre ma famille. A peine revenu au village, j'étais accosté de nouveau par deux gendarmes qui m'ont amené devant le Bailli, qui m'a fait emprisonner. Dans la nuit le Bailli me fait sortir du prison et me dit des paroles honteuses qui ne conviennent nullement à un Bailli. Il m'a aussi souffleté et fait tomber une de mes dents.

Sur cela je me suis présenté aux autorités de Zahraye Atik pour porter plainte contre la conduite du Bailli de Kezanlik.

Le Gouverneur de Zahraye Atik lui écriva une lettre au sujet de sa mauvaise conduite. Sur cela le Bailli de Kezanlik m'a fait emprisonner pour un mois, après quoi j'ai obtenu ma liberté et suis venu ici. J'ai adressé une pétition à son Excellence M. le Gouverneur-Général, dont je vous remets la copie, en vous priant de vouloir bien faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos et me faire donner une lettre pour que

je puisse aller à mon village et rester avec mes enfants. Vous pouvez aussi demander des informations sur ma conduite à tous nos villageois.

En attendant impatiemment vos ordres, veuillez agreer, &c.

(Signé) ELHADJI EMIR.
MEHMED EMIR.

Philippopoli, le 1er Février (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Kara-Réyis.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Kara-Réyis, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Depuis notre retour à notre village nos compatriotes Bulgares ne cessent pas de nous faire toute sorte de méchancetés.

Ainsi dernièrement, pendant que le nommé Arif Kehaya Oglou Emin dormait chez lui avec sa mère, des villageois Bulgares sont entrés à minuit dans sa maison et après y avoir mis le feu et fermé la porte, ils ont pris la fuite. Arif et sa mère réveillés par le feu dans leur maison, ont cassé la fenêtre et ont sautés dans la rue.

Le premier jour du Ramazan (Août), après l'heure de notre Namaz (prière), à deux heures après minuit (8 heures à la Turque de la nuit) les Bulgares ont mis du feu à notre mosqué, et au collége, qui sont devenu la proie des flammes.

Maintenant nous n'avons aucun endroit pour faire nos Namaz (prières) et pour faire étudier nos enfants. Dernièrement les Bulgares ont de nouveau brûlé un magasin et un four appartenant au dit mosqué.

Pendant toute la nuit les villageois Bulgares font la patrouille dans les rues, et ne permettent pas aux Musulmans de sortir hors de leurs maisons après 8 heures du soir, même dans un cas urgent, de peur d'être battus.

Ils refusent de nous donner les récoltes que nous avons à recevoir de nos compatriotes Bulgares et ils nous font mille difficultés.

Les champs qui nous appartiennent on les prend et on ne nous les rend pas. Nous avons portés des plaintes aux Notables Bulgares. Ces derniers ont invité leurs compatriotes à l'ordre. Sur cela on nous a fait souffrir davantage.

Il y a quelques jours les villageois Bulgares de Yavrova sont venus dans notre quartier et nous ont fait mille insultes. Sur cela les Tchorbadjis Bulgares ont invité ces villageois de Yavrova, et après leur avoir donné des conseils les ont renvoyé.

Aujourd'hui les villageois Musulmans se trouvent ici pire que des esclaves. Nos compatriotes Bulgares nous ajoutent en même temps que si nous portons des plaintes aux autorités pour leur conduite ils nous brûlerons tous dans nos maisons.

Nous vous prions instamment, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien nous faire donner la tranquillité et faire reconstruire par nos compatriotes Bulgares notre Djami (mosqué), notre école, et les deux magasins qu'ils ont brûlés.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) Le Mouhtar de KARA REYIS.

Philippopoli, le 6 Février (v.s.), 1880.

Inclosure 7 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Asse-Kara.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village d'Asse-Kara, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Il y a 60 familles Musulmanes dans notre village. En outre, il y a 25 familles Bulgares du village de Rahmanle, une famille d'Evdjiler, district de Tchirpan; une famille de Kara-Alan, district de Hasketi; total, 27 familles, qui sont venues dans notre village et demeurent dans nos maisons. Les propriétaires de ces 27 maisons sont obligés de rester dans les écuries, vu que leurs habitations sont occupés par les Bulgares. Si nous voulons vendre des champs et autres propriétés on nous empêche.

Un de nos villageois a vendu dernièrement un ombar (maison de blé). Sur cela les Bulgares qui demeurent dans notre village ont fortement battu le vendeur, en disant que ces propriétés ne nous appartiennent pas et que la moitié était à eux. Nous avons dit à ceux-ci que nous porterons des plaintes par devant les autorités. Ils nous ont répondu : "Allez-y, nous autres avons une autre autorité, même en cas que vous irez porter des plaintes aux autorités, il vous sera impossible de vivre ici désormais."

Nous n'avons plus de tranquillité. Les Bulgares détruisent nos toits. S'ils doivent rester ici, veuillez nous faire indiquer un autre endroit, ou bien faire sortir les Bulgares de nos maisons.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants des Villageois d'Asse-Kara,
(Signé) RÉDJEB.
BÉKIR.
ISMAÏL.

Philippopoli, le 9 Février (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 8 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Kousséli-Kébir.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Kousséli-Kébir, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 105 familles dans notre village. Parmi nous se trouvent 150 familles Bulgares provenant des villages de Rahmanle, Evdjiler, Bourounsous, Déréli, et Abrachlar.

Ces familles habitent nos maisons, tandis que nous demeurons dans les écuries. Il est impossible à nos femmes et à nos enfants de sortir dans la rue. Quand nos enfants vont à l'école, chemin faisant les Bulgares leur jettent des pierres.

On nous défend de vendre nos champs, disant que nous n'en avons pas le droit, et que la moitié de nos propriétés leur appartiennent.

Si ces Bulgares continuent à rester dans notre village il nous sera impossible d'y rester aussi.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos et nous faire avoir la tranquillité.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants,
(Signé) Mouhtar MESTAN.
YOUSSOUF.
ISMAÏL.
SALIM.

Philippopoli, le 9 Février (v.s.), 1880.

Inclosure 9 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Kara-Tahir.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Kara-Tahir, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 27 familles, composées de 105 personnes. Il y a trois mois que les autorités nous ont donné 6 oques de céréales par tête et nous avons pu vivre; maintenant nous n'avons plus rien à manger et avons besoin, jusqu'au temps de la récolte prochain, 300 kilés de céréales.

Pour avoir cela, comme cautionnement nous pouvons donner nos champs et des garanties, afin de ne pas mourir de faim.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants,
(Signé) SALIH EFFENDI, *Imam.*
HADJI SALI OGLOU MEHMED, *Mehtar.*
CHÉRIF OGLOU IDRIZ, *Membre.*

Philippopoli, le 12 Février (v.s.), 1880.

Inclosure 10 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Inébekdji.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Inébekdji, district de Caradja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 110 familles, composées de 410 personnes, demeurant dans des écuries et des granges sans nourriture ou vêtements.

Nous sommes réduits à une profonde misère et Dieu seul connaît notre triste situation.

Nous avons dû vendre un deunum (100 mètres) de champs pour acheter 5 ocques de farines. Il est clair que si un prompte secours ne nous arrive, nous serons tous perdus.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants des Villageois d'Inébekdji,
(Signé) AHMED MOUHTAR SALI OGLOU.
HALIL OGLOU MEHMED.

Philippopoli, le 13 *Février* (v.s.), 1880.

Inclosure 11 in No. 225.

Mussulman Petition from Timour-Tachle.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Timour-Tachle, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 65 familles demeurant dans des huttes. Comme il existe parmi nous quelques individus Bulgares qui nous insultent, il nous est impossible de sortir hors de notre village. Nos récoltes sont pris par les villageois Bulgares, ainsi que par les bergers et autres. Ils ont même détruit nos vignes et nos bois. Nous supportons toutes ces injustices malgré nous.

Il y a 25 jours, un de nos villageois Musulmans, le nommé Ibrahim Oglou Moustapha, a été tué par les Bulgares avec des coupes de bâton.

Vu les insultes d'un côté et les injustices de l'autre qui nous arrivent journellement, il nous est impossible de supporter cet état de choses plus longtemps.

Une partie de nos villageois Musulmans est obligée de se disperser d'un côté et de l'autre.

Pour sauvegarder nos personnes et nos intérêts il nous est indispensable d'avoir deux gendarmes dans notre village.

Nous espérons donc, M. le Consul-Général, que vous prendrez les mesures que vous jugerez à propos pour satisfaire à nos demandes.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) Les habitants Mussulmans de Timour-Tachle.

Philippopoli, le 21 *Février* (v.s.), 1880.

No. 226.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 276.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 8, 1880.

YOUR Lordship is no doubt aware that the Porte made an arrangement with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which has existed for some years, for the regular payment of its diplomatic service abroad, and of certain foreigners in its employment. Amongst the latter were Hobart and Baker Pashas, and the English officers engaged for the organization of the gendarmerie, in whose contracts with the Turkish Government it was specified that their salaries should be paid by the bank. Certain revenues were assigned to the bank for this purpose.

A short time ago they were appropriated by the Minister of Finance. The bank consequently refused to perform its part of the engagement, and the persons whom it had agreed to pay had been, therefore, left without their salaries. In consequence of the very

serious inconvenience to which the diplomatic representatives of Turkey were thus exposed, a fresh arrangement has been made with the bank, which enabled it to continue to remit their salaries to them, and at the same time to pay those of a few foreigners in the service of the Porte, including the Commissioners sent by it to Bulgaria and Servia under the Treaty of Berlin, its English and French law advisers, and the foreign professors in certain Government educational establishments. But Hobart and Baker Pashas, and the officers of the gendarmerie, have not been included in this arrangement, and are now consequently two months' in arrears of pay, and not likely to receive any for an indefinite time. I am informed, I trust inaccurately, that Baker Pasha's travelling expenses have even been suspended. Should such be the case he would scarcely be able to continue on his mission.

The English officers of the gendarmerie are naturally very indignant at this breach of their contract with the Turkish Government, and intend to protest formally against it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 227.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 278.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which has been addressed to the Porte by the Hellenic Minister, stating that his Government feel it useless to continue direct negotiations with the Turkish Government on the Greek Frontier question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 227.

M. Coundouriotis to Sawas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Péra, le* $\frac{21 \text{ Février}}{5 \text{ Mars}}$, 1880.

FAISANT suite à ma communication du $\frac{14}{26}$ courant j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que je me suis empressé de transmettre au Gouvernement Royal les deux Mémoires annexés à votre note du $\frac{13}{25}$ Février.

Dans l'un de ces Mémoires les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman formulaient une proposition concrète portant fixation des deux extrémités de la ligne de Berlin en la faisant aboutir au point de Thèbes du côté de Velo, et vers Anino du côté du Golfe Ambracique. D'après cette même proposition le reste de la ligne devait faire l'objet d'une discussion ultérieure entre les Plénipotentiaires des deux Etats.

D'ordre du Gouvernement Royal je viens déclarer à votre Excellence que celui-ci se trouvant dans l'impossibilité d'accepter les deux points extrêmes proposés par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, comme base de discussion, attendu qu'ils se trouvent en dehors des indications géographiques du Protocole No. 13, il s'ensuit évidemment qu'il ne saurait non plus accepter la discussion proposée en vue de déterminer la nouvelle ligne-frontière à tracer entre les deux points en question.

La proposition de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans présente un très-grand écart non-seulement de la ligne proposée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, dans la séance du $\frac{24}{12}$ Octobre dernier, mais aussi de la modification apportée à cette ligne par leur note du $\frac{13}{25}$ Décembre.

Dans de pareilles conditions le réglement de cette affaire devient impossible au moyen d'une entente directe.

Ainsi, la dernière proposition de la Porte ne fait que constater le plein désaccord qui existe entre les Plénipotentiaires des deux Etats et imposer au Gouvernement Royal la nécessité de partager l'opinion exprimée par les Plénipotentiaires sur l'inutilité de prolonger les négociations directes entre les deux Etats.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.

No. 228.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 281.)
Constantinople, March 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, reporting numerous acts of brigandage and lawlessness which have recently been committed in the neighbourhood of Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 228.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, February 28, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, translations of Mr. Kypriotis' despatches, dated respectively 23rd and 26th instant, relative to the insecurity of life and property that exists within his jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 228.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, February 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to you as follows:—

Wednesday last the Mahommedan community of Laskoviki wrote to the local authorities asking for military assistance in order to protect their country, which is threatened by ten bands of brigands from Colonia. In their report they describe the state of their country as being so bad and hopeless that from dread of the brigands they cannot allow their children even to go to school.

Thursday last four Israelites left this very early for Corfu viâ Sayada. On their way thither, at a place called Papa, seven hours distant from Janina, they were surrounded by eighteen brigands, who, after murdering the muleteer, Mahommed Brachos, robbed them of 5 T. 4,000.

The Jews, however, were allowed to return to Janina, as a Jusbashi, with a Souvari, happened to be going in that direction, and who were suspected of belonging to some flying detachment of troops. The leader of this band was Kiazim Bey, who last year plundered Pugia (Zagori), and carried off some prisoners. A short while after he had been amnestied by the Government, he resided sometimes at Janina and sometimes in his native country, Colonia; and it is rumoured that lately, finding himself here, Government intended to intrust him with the protection of Zagori. In this band was also Haussen Gougas, of whom mention is made in my despatch of the 28th July last.

The names of the above-mentioned Israelites are: Samuel Dostis, Esdras Mihir, Minnem Bakolas, and Haïm M. Levy. The former is a banker and the latter are merchants.

Friday last Demetrio Zor, mulateer, who had charge of three mules laden with merchandize belonging to merchants of Conitza, and bound for Janina, was found murdered at a place called Asptaka, three hours distant from Janina. One of the mules was also found dead on the spot, but the other two with the merchandize have disappeared.

In consequence of the above acts trade will, I regret to say, be brought to a standstill, and people will be afraid to move unless proper measures are adopted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 228.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, February 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to give you the following information:—

On the 1st instant an Albanian named Lelobey, of the Caza of Paleopogoni, murdered one of his fellow peasants, a Christian named Karendzia, of Dipalitza, because he had lent his horse to another Albanian and not to him, who intended to go to a wedding.

On the 20th instant a certain Nitro Gourtza, of Tzaraplani, while on his way hither from Laskoviki, was robbed of everything he possessed, including his clothing and his two mules.

Ten days ago, on the road between Tepelini and Avlona, three headless bodies were discovered.

In consequence of these crimes that have now commenced to take place, it is with great difficulty that the unfortunate inhabitants make up their minds to move from one place to another on business.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

No. 229.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 284.)
Constantinople, March 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a despatch I have received from Consul-General Michell, inclosing a communication from Aleko Pasha respecting the institution of Mixed Tribunals in the Province of Eastern Roumelia. I referred Mr. Michell's despatch to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett for his opinion, and I beg to inclose a copy of his reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 229.

Mr. Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 14.)
Philippopoli, February 21, 1880.

Sir,

IN conformity with the course adopted by my colleagues of Austria, France, Greece, and Italy, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the copy of a communication which I have received from the Governor-General, dated the 18th instant, on the subject of the institution of Mixed Tribunals in this province. In that communication his Excellency offers to concede (after obtaining the authority of the Porte), "as a temporary faculty liable from day to day to be withdrawn," that which, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, I joined my Consular colleagues in demanding as a right derived from usages based on the Capitulations and consecrated by the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 229.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

M. le Consul-Général,
Philippopoli, le 7/19 *Février*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie du Rapport que M. le Secrétaire-Général m'a adressée, en date du 7/19 Janvier courant, en réponse à l'office que vous m'avez

envoyé le $\frac{14}{27}$ Décembre, 1879, relativement à la question de l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 229.

M. Crestovitch to Aleko Pasha.

Directeur de l'Intérieur de la Roumelie Orientale,
le 14 Janvier, 1880.

Excellence,

J'AI lu et étudié les notes qui nous ont été adressées par MM. les Consuls d'Angleterre, de France, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Grèce en réponse au Rapport que j'avais eu l'honneur de vous soumettre relativement à leur demande pour l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale quand ils auraient à juger des affaires pendantes entre indigènes et étrangers, conformément à l'Article 20 du Statut Organique.

Je suis heureux de constater :

1. Que dans leurs notes MM. les Consuls avouent qu'il n'y a pas, comme ils semblaient le croire en invoquant l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, un Acte de Convention ou d'arrangement entre la Sublime Porte et la Puissances étrangères, qui donne un pareil droit ou privilége pour les sujets étrangers en Turquie, mais que c'était là comme je l'avais supposé un usage pratique ou une pratique judiciaire de longtemps existant et constituant, disent-ils, de fait un privilége dont ils veulent se prévaloir aussi dans la Roumélie Orientale.

2. Qu'ils avouent également que cet usage ou cette pratique judiciaire est suivie en Turquie, non pas devant tous les Tribunaux et dans toutes les affaires mixtes, mais seulement devant les Tribunaux de Commerce et dans les affaires commerciales de civils autres que celles relatives aux différends d'immeubles et de localités de celles qui n'excèdent pas la somme de 1,000 piastres, ainsi que l'a constaté particulièrement M. le Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Ces deux points ainsi avoués et constatés, je crois qu'il nous sera facile de nous accorder avec MM. les Consuls s'ils veulent bien encore prendre en considération les observations suivantes :

1. Que l'usage ou la pratique judiciaire d'accepter des Assesseurs dans les Tribunaux de Commerce de l'Empire pour les affaires mixtes ci-dessus désignées existe, mais il n'existe point comme un privilége des sujets étrangers, car les privilèges ne s'accordent et ne s'acquièrent que par Capitulations, Traités, ou Conventions écrites, et il n'y en a pas. Pour preuve de cela il n'y a qu'à citer la déclaration de la Sublime Porte contenue dans son Mémoire adressé le 7 Juillet, 1869, aux Représentants des Puissances étrangères.

Cette déclaration la voici : En conséquence de la prétention des étrangers de ne vouloir pas suivre telle ou telle loi de l'Empire comme n'ayant pas été formellement reconnue par l'Ambassadeur ou Consul dont ils relèvent, celle de ne vouloir pas se faire juger par des Tribunaux où des étrangers ne siégeant pas en qualité de Juge ou d'Assesseurs, ainsi que celle de vouloir se soustraire aux Tribunaux ordinaires et de demander des Commissions Extraordinaires Mixtes pour régler leurs différends avec les sujets Ottomans, ces prétentions, disons-nous, ne sont appuyées d'aucun texte et tolérées jusqu'ici par une raison ou une autre, elle ne doivent plus être admises à l'avenir. (Voir la Législation Ottomane par Aristarché le II ; p. 424.)

La preuve encore de ce que, avoir des Assesseurs dans les affaires mixtes n'est point un privilége mais une simple tolérance, c'est que le privilége étant de sa nature un droit absolu, doit exister partout et toujours tant que l'acte officiel (Capitulation ou Traité) qui l'a établi subsiste ; tel est par exemple le privilége établi par les Capitulations pour le Drogman ou le Conseil d'assister dans l'examen des affaires mixtes devant tout Tribunal de l'Empire Ottoman, même devant les Tribunaux du Chéri.

2. La faculté pour les étrangers d'avoir des Assesseurs n'ayant point été introduite que depuis quelques années il n'existe que devant les Tribunaux de Commerce de l'Empire et qu'à titre provisoire. En effet, lorsqu'en 1845 le Gouvernement Ottoman a pour la première fois créé un Tribunal de Commerce à Constantinople pour soustraire les affaires commerciales aux Tribunaux du Chéri—seule juridiction alors existante—indigènes et étrangers ont salué avec joie cette heureuse institution à laquelle, cependant, il y avait une

juste observation à faire, c'est que les membres indigènes ignorant en général les règles du droit et de la procédure de commerce, ne seraient pas en état de bien juger les affaires commerciales, puisqu'il n'y avait pas encore en Turquie un code des lois et de procédure de commerce dont ils pussent se guider. Le Gouvernement Ottoman dans sa justice, voulant prévenir une pareille objection et désirant voir son nouveau Tribunal favorablement accueilli même par les étrangers, a pensé accorder aux étrangers et leur a accordés, quoiqu'il n'y fût point obligé, la faculté d'avoir des Assesseurs pendant l'examen de leurs contestations avec les indigènes ; mais il ne leur a accordé cette faculté qu'à titre provisoire jusqu'à promulgation du code et de la procédure de commerce. Et pour que cela fût bien connu, il a eu le soin d'insérer cette clause et cette condition dans son Ordonnance adressée à cet effet au Ministre du Commerce, laquelle se trouve jusqu'à présent dans les archives de ce Ministère.

Voilà donc quand, comment, et pourquoi les étrangers ont obtenu non pas le privilége mais la simple faculté provisoire d'avoir des Assesseurs au Tribunal de Commerce pour l'examen et le jugement de leurs différends commerciaux avec les indigènes, et cela pour cette bonne raison, que le Tribunal du Chéri—seul Tribunal à la fois civil et commercial jusqu'alors—n'avait pas de règles propres à décider convenablement les contestations commerciales.

Mais comme on abuse souvent de toutes les bonnes choses, petit à petit, les étrangers ont aussi commencé à abuser de la dite faculté de faveur que la Sublime Porte avait bien voulu leur accorder dans l'intérêt du commerce, et profitant de l'ignorance ou de la négligence des fonctionnaires au Tidjaret, ils ont commencé à y introduire et faire juger aussi les affaires purement civiles, et voilà comment s'est établi, d'une manière tout-à-fait arbitraire, l'usage d'y faire juger même les affaires civiles mobilières, avec la participation des Assesseurs étrangers.

Cependant le Code de Commerce Ottoman fut promulgué en 1856 et le Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottomane en 1860, et pourtant cet usage abusif aussi bien que la faculté d'avoir des Assesseurs qui par cela même devait cesser, puisque c'est à cette condition expresse qu'elle avait été accordée provisoirement aux étrangers, ceux-ci ont trouvé le moyen de la faire continuer sous un prétexte ou sous un autre, et profitant de cela MM. les Consuls d'ici, comme s'ils ont oublié on complétement ignoré l'origine, la nature, et la condition de cette faculté et de cet usage, viennent officiellement en réclamer l'application même en Roumélie Orientale, que l'Europe a créé autonome, en qualifiant le dit usage de privilége acquis et en le présentant comme un usage absolu ou une pratique judiciaire sans condition, ce qui n'est pas. Maintenant, voyons ce que la Sublime Porte pense à l'égard de ces sortes de choses.

Dans son Mémoire adressé le 7 Juillet, 1869, aux Puissances étrangères sur les Capitulations, la Sublime Porte s'exprime ainsi :—

"Les Capitulations doivent, tant qu'elles sont en vigueur, être scrupuleusement respectées au même titre que les Traités."

Il est toutefois connu que dans la pratique on leur donne une élasticité qu'elles ne comportent pas, et qu'à côté des priviléges déjà exceptionels accordés par ces actes il existe des abus manifestes qu'il serait impossible au Gouvernement de tolérer plus longtemps.

C'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte en ordonnant aux autorités Impériales d'observer strictement et en toute loyauté les dispositions contenues dans les Capitulations, ne saurait trop leur recommander en même temps de repousser toute prétention qui dépasserait les limites des priviléges consacrés par ces actes et qui porterait atteinte aux droits souverains et imprescriptibles de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Les étrangers, comme les indigènes, ont droit à la protection des lois de l'Empire, mais ce droit même entraîne pour eux l'obligation corrélative de se soumettre à ces lois. Cette règle découlant du droit des gens n'a point été supprimée par les Capitulations.

En conséquence, la prétention des étrangers de ne vouloir suivre telle ou telle loi de l'Empire comme n'ayant pas été formellement reconnue par l'Ambassadeur ou le Consul dont ils relèvent ; celle de ne vouloir pas se faire juger par les Tribunaux où des étrangers ne siégent pas en qualité de Juges ou d'Assesseurs ; ainsi que celle de vouloir se soustraire aux Tribunaux ordinaires et de demander des Commissions Extraordinaires Mixtes pour régler leurs différends avec les sujets Ottomans, ces prétentions, disons-nous, ne sont appuyées d'aucun texte, et tolérées jusqu'ici pour une raison ou une autre, elles ne doivent plus être admises à l'avenir.

Ainsi, tout ce que je viens de dire et d'exposer sur cette importante matière étant bien avéré et bien constaté, je n'ai plus que deux mots à dire.

Si MM. les Consuls demandent l'introduction d'Assesseurs étrangers pour l'examen et le jugement des affaires mixtes dans nos Tribunaux comme un privilége ou comme un

usage absolu équivalent à un privilége, je crois que nous ne pouvons pas adhérer à cette demande sans contrevenir et à la nature ci-dessus expliquée de l'usage existant en Turquie et à l'opinion si clairement exprimée aussi de la Sublime Porte.

Si au contraire ils demandent cela comme une faveur ou comme une faculté provisoirement concédée aux étrangers et provisoirement pratiquée en Turquie, et par conséquent sujette à suppression d'un jour à l'autre, comme c'est l'opinion et l'intention de la Sublime Porte, dans ce cas je n'ai rien à dire, si ce n'est que nous pouvons bien accepter leur demande mais à condition que nous en référions d'abord à la Sublime Porte et que nous recevions son autorisation.

J'ai, &c.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
(Signé) G. CRESTOVITCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 229.

Consul-General Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, March 2, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 27th February last, I have the honour to state that I have perused the memorandum of the Secretary-General of Eastern Roumelia, communicated by his Excellency Aleko Pasha to the Consuls of the Powers at Philippopoli in reply to their demand for the admission of foreign Assessors in the Tribunals of the Province of Eastern Roumelia, and beg to make the following observations thereon:—

The admission of Assessors to the Commercial Tribunals is a right which, although not specially set forth in the Capitulations, has clearly devolved from them. By virtue of the Capitulations all mixed cases of every kind were, from the outset, within the exclusive jurisdiction of the "Sherent" Tribunals, in which a single Judge sat, assisted by a Delegate or Dragoman of the Legation of the nation to which the foreigner, party in the case, belonged.

This, then, constitutes the right, and this was the practice followed until the year 1845; then the Ottoman Government, perceiving that the above-mentioned Tribunals no longer sufficed for the requirements of the times, owing to the increase in the commercial relations between the Empire and Europe, thought proper to establish a Chamber of Commerce in which it was decided to introduce the French Code.

However, as the object in view would involve a change in jurisdiction with respect to foreign subjects, and to some extent modify the Treaties, the Porte rightly considered that it could not do this without the assent of the Powers, nor without a previous understanding with the Representatives of those Powers.

This understanding, therefore, was brought about as much on account of the composition of the new Tribunals as of the procedure they were to follow.

The admission of foreign Assessors to the Mixed Tribunals of Commerce consequently is not based, as the Secretary-General says, upon the tolerance or condescension of the Sublime Porte, but upon a right arising out of Treaties.

At a later period, the Ottoman Government having established Civil Tribunals, were desirous to detach from the Mixed Tribunals of Commerce all matters of a civil nature. The foreign Missions opposed this measure as constituting a further change in jurisdiction, and, after much discussion, it was agreed between the Porte and the Missions that only suits relating to leases and civil matters wherein the amount involved did not exceed 1,000 piastres could be dealt with in the Civil Tribunals.

This further instance serves equally to prove that no modification of jurisdiction can be effected without the consent of the Embassies. This is a right originating from Treaties often exercised by the Representatives of the foreign Powers, and always recognized by the Porte. But independently of the above, the Governors of provinces are bound to act in conformity with what is done in the capital, and not to arrogate to themselves the power of contesting rights and privileges arising out of Treaties recognized by the Central Government, and consecrated by long practice.

Such being the view I take of the question, I think that the Consuls have not quite properly framed their demand in basing it on custom, for custom alone cannot constitute a privilege, and thus the Secretary-General has found means to refute the argument of the Consuls.

The above observations are based on the hypothesis that Eastern Roumelia is still a

province of the Turkish Empire, and that Aleko Pasha occupies much the same position as any Governor of a province.

I beg to return Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch with its inclosure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT.

No. 230.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 286.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two letters which have been communicated to me by the Œcumenical Patriarch relative to the condition of the Christian population in the Vilayet of Salonica, and the intrigues of Bulgarian and Russian Agents in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 230.

Letter sent from Salonica to the Œcumenical Patriarch, dated January 15, 1880.

JE viens porter humblement à la connaissance de votre Excellence les faits déplorables et déchirants qui viennent d'avoir lieu à trois villages de mon humble diocèse près de Litochoron. Lavant dernier Dimanche une troupe de bandits sous la conduite du terrible Katarachia envahit en plein midi le village Pantéléymon, et après avoir rassemblé dans l'enceinte de l'église tous les habitants du village en égorgea deux et exerça 1,000 atrocités contre les autres, en exigeant une amende de 200 livres pour les punir d'avoir depuis un certain temps dénoncé leur présence aux autorités de Katérine. Devant le sang qui coulait à flots quel est le Chrétien qui refuserait de donner son dernier sou pour se soustraire au massacre? Aussi, 170 livres sont à l'instant réunis sans compter l'argenterie; le chef de la bande s'en empare et le lendemain, Lundi, à l'aube du jour, il se dirige vers Scotina, laissant derrière lui une foule d'estropiés, de blessés, et d'agonisants, dont deux vient de succomber. Je n'ai pas besoin d'ajouter qu'ils répétèrent les mêmes scènes à Scotina et à Septokurga, avec la seule différence qu'ils se servirent contre leur victime du pistolet au lieu du glaive, et qu'ils s'adonnèrent à une danse frénétique autour du cadavre sous les yeux des malheureux habitants. La nouvelle de ces catastrophes fut à l'instant répandue aux autres villages de mon malheureux diocèse; une panique s'empara de toute la population, et mes Chrétiens, abandonnant tout, se réfugient dans les villages qui ont une garnison, ne songeant qu'à se soustraire au glaive de Katarachia, et s'exposant à mendier leur pain. La position des Chrétiens, très-saint Père, est horrible et intolérable. Il est vrai que depuis deux ans l'Olympe est le repaire des bandits, mais les habitants n'étaient pas dépouillés, ils n'étaient pas égorgés. Maintenant le glaive de Katarachia est suspendu menaçant sur toute tête vivante qui oserait seulement mal parler des Princes de montagne. Si l'on ajoute à cet état des choses le mouvement inutile des détachements de l'armée qui changent sans cesse de quartier, et qui sont nourris aux dépens de la population épuisée (j'ai été témoin oculaire d'une hospitalité accordée dans l'espace de quatre jours à 600 soldats et à 150 cavaliers), voyant avec un cœur navré la dissolution de mes villages, je suis parvenu à arrêter la fuite précipitée des habitants sous la double condition qu'ils m'ont imposée, savoir: (1) qu'ils auront la protection du Gouvernement par l'envoi des troupes dans les dits villages; (2) que la perception des impôts soit remise jusqu'après Pâques. Pour cette fin deux Délegués, Papa Jean et Papa Nicolas, sont envoyés à Constantinople de la part des communes qui ont souffert. Je supplie votre Excellence de vouloir bien leur accorder son efficace protection en même temps que ses précieux conseils en faveur des millions d'âmes qui se trouvent dans la plus terrible position.

Inclosure 2 in No. 230.

Extract of a Letter from Stroumitza to the Œcumenical Patriarch, dated February 12, 1880.

LE nommé Harrousi Tymo, natif de Stroumtza, un des organes de Panslavisme, et qui a été injustement soustrait à la potence secondé par les frères Houssein Bey et le fameux Arct Aotza, a fait secrètement circuler et signer des pétitions qui ont un but Panslaviste, mais qui n'ont pu se soustraire à ma vigilance et à celle de l'honorable Demogerontie. En conséquence, le Caïmacam Effendi, par des mesures aussi secrètes qu'efficaces, est parvenu à saisir trois de ces pétitions qui tendaient au même but, c'est-à-dire, à inculper les autorités civiles en les représentant comme complices dans les menées des Grecs, qu'ils ont nommé membres des différents Conseils à leur dire contre tout droit et toute loi. Ces pétitions portent des signatures Chrétiens et des sceaux Musulmans.

Mais le Caïmacam n'a pu mettre la main sur la pétition qui a particulièrement pour objet le Bulgarisme. Cependant il a intercepté une lettre adressée par Stavroussi Tymo à M. Progdano Bitzow, interprète du Consulat Russe à Salonique, dont le contenu est à peu près ceci: "Nous avons reçu vos deux lettres en même temps que la pétition Turque; elle circule pour être signée afin que nous puissions vous l'envoyer un moment plus tôt. Nous attendons par le courrier de cette semaine celle qui est destinée pour l'Exarchat, afin que nous puissions également la faire signer et vous la retourner. Frère Progdano, agis de toute ta force en faveur des intérêts nationaux, car c'est par ces moyens que le sentiment national grandit ici."

Cette lettre très-laconique fait voir assez clairement qui sont les moteurs de ces pétitions, et quel est le but.

No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 290.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 10, 1880.

THE Œcumenical Patriarch has communicated to me a letter addressed to the Metropolitan of Serres by the Chiefs of the Bulgarian insurgents in Macedonia, threatening to burn the town of Serres in case a contribution demanded from certain of its inhabitants were not paid. I have the honour to inclose a translation by Mr. Willmore of this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Letter from the Bulgarian Insurgents to the Metropolitan of Serres.

(Translation.)

Very Reverend Bishop, *February* 11, 1880.

THE sole object of our present letter is to inquire whether you are faring as well as we desire, and, if you ask after us, our health, thank God, continues to be good up to the present day. By the Grace of the Almighty we live in happiness, and you yourself have seen that we are living, and if you have not seen, you have most assuredly heard of the war, which I declared against the Turks, when my associates were found wanting; if I had wished to bring down my soldiers I had hoped, by the Grace of God, to burn your town without a moment's delay. But I have reflected upon the matter and, for a long time, have delayed to carry out my wishes, since I have not yet made your Holiness acquainted with them. Accordingly I now do so, and all I say is just and reasonable, and we are of opinion that you yourself will regard it in the same light. Learn then, Holy Priest, that we have often spoken in humble words to the men of highest repute in your town, but they have scornfully refused to hear us. What penalty shall we inflict upon such men as these? Shall we leave them in peace, or shall we vent our fury upon them? But they will say that they have no fear because they are citizens; let them not talk thus. If they do not produce the sums which I shall mention below, I hope with Divine assistance

to slay them one by one in the town, and afterwards to set fire to the town itself. Perhaps you will say that you have armies; we have no fear of a Turkish army. Until the present day we have waged no war, but now I unfurl the standard, and first of all I will persecute the Christians such as yours.

From Autonas I require 500 liras, from Zlatkos 500, from Boïgloud 500, from Athnikos, the physician, 400, from Nicolas Michael 500, from Gliger, the brandy merchant, 500, from Basil, the rope maker, 500, from George, the barley merchant, 200, from the monk of Meles 100, from Kounton Costa, son of Athanasius, 200, from Christopolos Demetrius, seller of sesame oil, 100, from Matikos 400, from another 200, from the priest Mark 200, from Nasis, the rope maker, 100, from Tegonjik 200, from Garabet 200, from Christopolos, the seller of sesame oil, 100, from Christopolos Apostol 200, from Athanas, the seller of braid, 200.

As soon as you have read our letter they must immediately produce the sums which I have named. They cannot collect the corn, so that they die of hunger, and they are kept at Pegolia, and that is not sufficient, but you throw them into prison so that they die there, and you will not show any desire to set them at liberty; on the contrary, it is said, let the Bulgarians die like dogs. I inform you of this, in order that you may send the money at once if you wish to live in peace. If, on the other hand, you do not succeed in sending it, you will not be able to take your walks, or your coffees, or to go to your farm, or even into the streets. You may consider it as indifferent to me if I slay one person, and then you will be convinced. If you do not show this letter you will not have a long life, because you also have many faults. But when these sums are sent there will be a general pardon, and you shall have full licence from Costa, the Wayvode, to go wherever you like, and you will have no one to fear. Do not say that you will send armies of 50,000 men, for in that case you will not be left in peace. If you will be good enough send a man to ask in several places, and you will find us. If it please you show my letter to the assembly; I have no fear; as they slew my father, so let them slay me.

This I write for your information.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) COSTA KOUKON, *Wayvode.*

Witness my seal:
(Seal of the General Staff of the Macedonian Insurrection, 1878.)

No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 291.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 3rd instant, relating to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to Turkey and Greece for the settlement of the new line of frontier to be ceded to the latter country, I have the honour to inclose copy of the note that I have addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject. On receiving your Lordship's telegrams I immediately communicated their substance to Sawas Pasha, giving his Excellency, at the same time, a memorandum of it in writing. In consequence of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have now addressed to his Excellency the note of which I inclose a copy. As your Lordship will perceive, I have confined it to the proposal made by Her Majesty's Government without entering into the considerations upon which it is founded contained in your Lordship's telegrams, with which however I acquainted Sawas Pasha in the above-mentioned memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *British Embassy, March* 10, 1880.

THE Commissioners appointed by the Sublime Porte and by the Hellenic Government to consider the question of the new frontier line to be conceded to Greece having failed to come to the agreement contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of

Berlin, Her Majesty's Government, after coming to an understanding with that of France, are willing, in concert with her and the other Signatory Powers, to offer their mediation in order to facilitate negotiations, for the purpose of determining the precise frontier which they should recommend. I am consequently instructed by Her Majesty's Government to propose to the Sublime Porte the following arrangement:—A Boundary Commission, composed of Commissioners nominated by the Signatory Powers, shall study and determine on the spot the line best suited to form a new frontier between the two countries. They shall take as the basis of their deliberations the XIIIth Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, and without being bound by the general indications given therein, they shall loyally act in the spirit and in conformity with them, and the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries at that sitting of the Congress. They shall decide by a majority of votes upon the precise portion best fitted to carry that policy into effect. Her Majesty's Government will then join in recommending to the disputant Powers the frontier upon which the Commissioners shall in this manner determine.

I am further instructed by Her Majesty's Government to recommend to the Sublime Porte to give the necessary permission for carrying out this preliminary investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 233.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 292.)
Constantinople, March 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna, giving a return of the Mussulman population who have entered and left that port during the year 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose a further despatch from the Acting Vice-Consul at Varna, transmitting extracts from a Panslavistic speech, delivered on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Emperor of Russia's accession to the Throne.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, March 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith to your Excellency some particulars as to the numbers of the Mussulman population who have entered and left this port during the year 1879, the statistics of the vast quantity, including Circassians who left during and just after the war, not being obtainable.

I must premise by stating that for the figures given I am indebted to the obligingness of the Austrian Lloyd Steamer Company at Varna, by whose boats by far the greater proportion of the passengers travelled (the total number of emigrating Mussulmans by other vessels being merely about 2,000, though the Turkish Government steamers brought from Constantinople a considerable number of disbanded soldiers), and that the precise numbers being impossible to get at, the plan was adopted of deducting twenty third-class passengers from the total number on each of the outward voyages, 104 altogether, as being likely to give an approximate result.

According to the above calculation, 9,994 Mussulmans paid passages to Constantinople during the past year, and, adding thereto 20 per cent. for young children, &c., this, with say 2,000 by the Fraissnet Company and other steamers, would give a total of about 14,000 who have left the country.

About 12,000 will be the amount of Mussulmans disembarking at Varna during the same period, but nearly 10,000 of these were disbanded soldiers who did not necessarily belong to this Principality alone, but also to Eastern Roumelia and to the Dobrudscha, whither they afterwards made their way, whereas the majority of the emigrants represented

the agricultural inhabitants of this and other districts tapped by the Varna-Rustchuk Railway, which will not include those whose easier access was by the Danube.

Undoubtedly a large number of Mussulmans on the adjoining Bulgarian territory emigrated into Roumania on learning the equitable treatment enjoyed by their co-religionists in that country, but I have had no means of arriving at a correct estimate of their numbers.

On the other hand, it is questionable whether any large numbers of the Mahommedan population went lately over the border across the Balkans, as they were deterred by the reports of murders, robbery, and ill-treatment experienced by the Turkish element in those parts.

It is to be remarked that, according to the figures given me for each week, the increase in the number of Mussulman emigrants corresponds with increased vexations of various kinds inflicted upon them in the early summer months and in September and October, though in the latter case it may be surmised that many who had previously resolved upon leaving had put off their departure till they were enabled to realize their growing crops.

Except those few who were fortunate enough to possess house property in some large central town like Varna, it may be safely averred that nine-tenths of the emigrants were virtually dispossessed of their immovable property, for the Government did not recognize their right to dispose of their lands, or else set up some frivolous pretext or other, which, with the procedure adopted, had the effect of convincing the emigrants that they would obtain no justice by stopping and pleading their claims.

In several instances reported to me the Government gendarmes, acting upon superior orders, forbade intending Christian purchasers to buy any land off the Turks.

For some time past neither brigandage nor persecution has been so rife, which favourable turn of affairs is to be ascribed to the present disposition of the different local centres; nevertheless, it would be a mistake to consider that the previous so-called brigandage, which had the result of impoverishing and driving out many peaceable Mussulman peasants who had had no immediate intention of leaving their homes, was not connived at by many of the then authorities, and it is to be feared that, should their political interests as understood by them again seemingly counsel a similar course, the same means will not be shrunk from at the dictation of the Panslavistic Societies, which are very active just now.

As before stated, the Mussulman inhabitants, and especially the poorest, have not been allowed to dispose of their landed property, except in very rare instances, and a satisfactory solution of this question is the more desirable, as the Bulgars seem inclined to dispute the decision of the Treaty of Berlin as regards property given and willed away for the endowment of particular mosques and educational establishments, &c. (vakouf), and that, forsooth, because the Mussulman population, which they are doing their best to eliminate from amongst them, and of whom, even in the ordinary course of events, unaccelerated by any treatment stronger than the present, but very few will remain at the end of three or five years, would be the principal sufferers thereby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Varna, March 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 2nd instant, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Emperor of Russia's accession to the throne, a Te Deum was celebrated in the court-yard of the konak, to which the Representatives of the foreign Powers were invited.

I did not attend, not understanding how the Bulgarian Government could give an official invitation to the members of the Consular Corps to a ceremony in honour of a foreign Potentate.

A prepared discourse was then pronounced in Bulgarian, which must have placed most of the Consuls present in rather a false position.

In the speech the "Idolized God-crowned Tsar, the Liberator" was spoken of in fitting terms of eulogy, as well as a tribute of gratitude paid to the late Prince Tcherkasski, "the civil organizer of liberated Bulgaria," with an incidental mention of their "well-beloved Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria," but the main point referred to was the Treaty of

San Stefano, signed the same day two years ago, as regards which the audience were bidden "not to despair nor sorrow, as it was not dead but sleeping, and, like good seed sown on good ground, would bring forth a plentiful crop in due season; not to think that Russian glory, Russian honour, &c., had been extinguished; not that the great and holy Slavo-Russian work had fallen to the ground, no! a thousand times no!"

The last sentence of the speech was "Long live and flourish the Bulgarian nation of the Great Bulgaria of San Stefano."

In all official documents, thanksgivings, &c., come under my notice, wherein the two names are mentioned together, the Emperor of Russia occupies the place of honour, and the Prince of Bulgaria is then brought in as a trifling ornamental accessory in the back-ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 234.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 295.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Michell forwarding a letter addressed to me by the Bulgarian Metropolitan of Philippopoli, in which he denies having addressed a pastoral letter, as was reported, to the Bulgarian population of Eastern Roumelia, inciting them to cease all relations with the Greeks under penalty of excommunication.

I have replied to his Eminence that I trust he will not countenance the persecution of those who are not of the Bulgarian faith, whether Christians or Mussulmans, which so unfortunately prevails in Eastern Roumelia, and which is equally opposed to the true principles of Christianity and to the Constitution obtained by the European Powers for the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 234.

Mr. Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Philippopoli, March 7, 1880.*

THE Bulgarian Metropolitan has this day written to request me to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed letter, denying that he had, as telegraphed to your Excellency, from this town, addressed a pastoral letter to the Bulgarian population of Eastern Roumelia inviting them to cease all relations with the Greeks under penalty of excommunication.

It is perfectly true that the eventual discovery of the original Circular by which the Bulgarians of this province were urged to cease all intercourse with Greeks proved that the Circular in question (the very existence of which had been stoutly denied) had been signed, not by his Eminence the Metropolitan, but by M. Matiofski on behalf of the Central Gymnastic Society.

The Greek Consul explained later to the Consular body at their meeting of the instant that the mention of excommunication and of his Beatitude in the rough translation of the Circular which he had forwarded to the Governor-General was due to the fact, that the priests who had read the Circular to their Bulgarian parishioners had made the latter believe that the Circular was a pastoral letter, carrying with it the penalty of excommunication.

To this day, and even in Philippopoli, Bulgarian tradesmen believe that they will be excommunicated if they sell anything to, or buy anything from, the Greeks.

At the same time, the character and the revolutionary tendencies of Mgr. Paouretos are such that there can be no moral doubt as to his complicity with the agitation that has been organized against the Greeks.

There is, indeed, almost a proof of that complicity in the first paragraph of the Circular, which enjoins the Bulgarians to produce evidence of their having contributed towards the construction of the Greek cathedral in this town.

It is an established fact that his Eminence Mgr. Panaretos authorized one of his priests to proceed to the celebration of Divine Service in the church, which was forcibly seized from the Greeks on Christmas night last, and there is consequently every reason to believe that the seizure was made at his instigation. The Circular shows that the same hand is now directed against the Greek cathedral.

I have only to add that the prelate who addresses your Excellency in self-justification is notoriously one of the agitators who have hitherto prevented the establishment of peace and security in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Bulgarian Metropolitan to Sir H. Layard.

Excellence, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{23 \text{ Février}}{6 \text{ Mars}}$, 1880.

J'AI lu dans quelques journaux que votre Excellence aurait reçu de notre ville une dépêche dans laquelle je figurerais comme l'auteur d'une lettre pastorale où la population Bulgare de la Roumélie Orientale serait invitée à cesser tous rapports avec les Grecs sous peine d'excommunication.

Cette nouvelle, Excellence, est fausse de tous points et je m'étonne qu'elle ait pu vous être communiquée, quand ceux-là même qui se plaignent de cette Circulaire l'attribuent à un particulier qui n'a aucun rapport avec l'Archevêque Bulgar de cette ville.

Au reste, votre Excellence ne voudra pas admettre un seul instant qu'un membre élevé du clergé dont la mission est toute de paix et d'apaisement, ait pu s'oublier au point de lancer une proclamation ayant pour but de jeter le trouble dans les esprits, et surtout d'exciter les uns contre les autres les citoyens d'un même pays.

Aussi ne veux-je pas croire que votre Excellence m'ait elle-même attribué un rôle semblable dans les informations qu'elle aurait pu adresser à son Gouvernement sur la Roumélie Orientale.

Au cas néanmoins où des renseignements de cette nature pourraient être parvenus au Gouvernement Anglais, je serais très-reconnaisant à votre Excellence de vouloir bien communiquer mon démenti à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Cabinet de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) Le Métropolitain de Philippopoli.

No. 235.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of a note and inclosure which I have received to-day from M. de Freycinet.

The inclosure is a copy of a despatch to Admiral Pothuau, the French Ambassador in London, in which M. de Freycinet instructs him to consult your Lordship on several points relative to the proposed Greek Frontier Commission, and especially on the question whether Turkey and Greece, or either of them, shall be represented in it.

M. de Freycinet, as your Lordship is aware, considers that both ought to be excluded.

The verbal communication on another point, which his Excellency mentions as having been made by him to me, was reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 115 of the 11th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 235.

M. de Freycinet to Lord Lyons.

(Particulière.)

Paris, le 16 *Mars*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'ENVOIE à l'Amiral Pothuau une dépêche au sujet de la Commission de Délimitation proposée par l'Angleterre pour le réglement de la question des frontières entre la Turquie et la Grèce, et comme je m'y réfère à la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire dernièrement d'une note de Lord Salisbury adressée à votre Excellence, je crois bien faire de vous donner personnellement connaissance des termes dans lesquels j'écris à l'Ambassadeur de France à Londres. J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint une copie de ma lettre.

Agréer, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 235.

M. de Freycinet à l'Amiral Pothuau.

Paris, le 16 *Mars*, 1880.

M. l'Amiral,

DANS la dépêche du Marquis de Salisbury dont Lord Lyons m'a donné connaissance le 1er de ce mois, et qui contenait le texte de la proposition Anglaise relative à la réunion d'une Commission Internationale pour la délimitation de la frontière Turco-Hellénique, il était dit que le Cabinet de Londres désirait ne pas exprimer encore d'opinion définitive sur la question de savoir si la Turquie serait appelée à se faire représenter au sein de cette Commission.

Le point que Lord Salisbury réservait ainsi à un examen subsidiaire présente, par lui-même, un intérêt assez considérable pour que nous devions désirer être fixés, aussi prochainement que possible, sur la manière de voir du Gouvernement Britannique. D'après les renseignements qui nous sont parvenus, les autres Cabinets qu'il a saisis de sa proposition se préoccupent aussi de la question, et il m'a paru qu'ils inclinaient généralement à penser qu'il serait difficile d'admettre que la Turquie, dans cette affaire, fût en même temps juge et partie, ce qui arriverait si elle était conviée à siéger au même titre que les autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin dans la Commission de Délimitation.

Il est peu conforme, en effet, au principe de la médiation qu'un des Etats en cause soit appelé à prononcer sur les intérêts qui sont l'objet de l'arbitrage. L'Article XXIV du Traité de 1878, en prévoyant la médiation des Puissances, énumère expressément les six Cabinets qui se sont réservé de l'offrir, et parmi lesquels naturellement la Turquie ne se trouve pas indiquée.

A notre point de vue, les deux parties, dont les Cabinets se sont donné la mission de concilier les intérêts, devraient logiquement se trouver placées dans une situation semblable à l'égard des Puissances médiatrices. Il conviendrait donc, ou que toutes deux fussent également représentées dans la Commission, si l'une d'elles était invitée à y siéger, ou qu'elles demeurassent l'une et l'autre également en dehors des délibérations.

Il est d'autres points encore sur lesquels la proposition Anglaise ne donne point d'explications, et qui pourtant, dès qu'elle sera définitivement admise par les Cabinets, réclameront un prompt éclaircissement. En quel lieu la Commission Internationale devra-t-elle être convoquée, et à quelle date commencera-t-elle ses travaux? De quelle façon enfin le Gouvernement Anglais comprend-il sa composition? En ce qui nous concerne, ainsi que j'ai eu occasion déjà de remarquer verbalement à Lord Lyons, nous aurions l'intention de désigner deux Commissaires, dont l'un serait plus spécialement chargé de traiter les questions au point de vue diplomatique, et dont l'autre aurait un caractère technique. Cette double désignation nous paraît nécessitée par la nature même des travaux qui seront dévolus de commun accord à la Commission.

Je vous serai obligé de vous assurer du sentiment de Lord Salisbury sur ces divers points, et de m'en informer le plus tôt possible.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. DE FREYCINET

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 198.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 257 of the 29th ultimo, inclosing copies of the reply returned by Suwas Pasha to the collective note addressed to his Excellency by the foreign Representative at Constantinople on the new Codes of Civil and Criminal Law recently promulgated by the Turkish Government, and of the rejoinder which has been drawn up in answer to his Excellency's observations.

I have now to state to you that Her Majesty's Government concur in the tenour of the note addressed to Suwas Pasha by your Excellency and your colleagues on the 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 237.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1880.

I HAVE to express to you my approval of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 38 of the 3rd instant, in order to obtain a reversal of the rule laid down by the Mixed Commission for the settlement of Mussulman claims, that the legalization of Mussulman title-deeds must be effected through the Bulgarian Mayors.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 18, 1880.

COUNT MÜNSTER called on me to-day, and spoke to me with respect to the Agrarian law which had recently been passed in Servia. His Excellency said that it was a law which was obviously unjust to the Mahommedans, that Austria had been disposed to remonstrate somewhat strongly against it, and had consulted the German Government on the subject, but that Prince Bismarck was doubtful of the wisdom of any very conspicuous interference on the part of Austria, and had declined to give an opinion until he had had an opportunity of consulting Her Majesty's Government.

I replied that the view we had taken was very similar to Prince Bismarck's, that it was impossible to doubt that the law would bear hardly on the Mahommedans. On the other hand, one of the most important objects at which we had to aim at the present crisis in the Balkan Peninsula was the preservation, and, if possible, the increase of the influence of Austria in Servia. We were not, therefore, disposed to advise the Austrians, if our opinion was asked, to endanger their own influence in Servian councils by entering into this comparatively unimportant question of internal legislation. If an injustice had been committed, Germany and England might very well co-operate in representing it to the Servian Government, and pressing for its removal, for their political influence was not a matter of so much moment; but though we had not felt entitled to offer our advice to Austria on such a matter, our feeling was that she would act more prudently in abstaining from interposition for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 55.)
Athens, February 29, 1880.

My Lord,

IN a conversation I had last evening with Baron de Wachen, the Austrian Charge d'Affaires, he stated that Count Károlyi had been informed by the French Ambassador in London that the English and French Governments were completely agreed as to the line to be adopted in the Turco-Greek Frontier question, and that the Representatives of the Great Powers, both at Athens and Constantinople, would immediately receive instructions on the subject.

This information Baron de Wachen had received from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 240.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
Athens, March 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a confidential letter which has been addressed to me by Captain Swaine, Military Attaché at Constantinople, who has been at Athens a short time on leave, giving an account of a conversation he had with the King with reference to the frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 240.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Corbett.

Athens, March 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I was this day received by the King in private audience.

After some preliminary conversation of no public interest, His Majesty began on the Greek Frontier question. He expressed himself anxious that no more time should be lost in bringing it to a satisfactory termination. He blamed Turkey much for having thrown so many obstacles in the way of its settlement, especially as Greece was desirous of being on friendly terms with her. He refuted all intention of wishing to claim more territory from his neighbour than he had a fair right to, and declared that it was Turkey's special interest to make sacrifices for the good-will of Turkey, as after all "both countries were necessary to one another."

His Majesty insisted that no other line of frontier could have been intended by the Berlin Congress than the one his Commissioners proposed to their Turkish colleagues in December last, for it was impossible to accept the interpretation of the word "valley" to mean "thalweg."

His Majesty continued that the question had been allowed to drag to a great length already, much more so than was good for either country. Greece could wait no longer. It was impossible to govern the country satisfactorily until the question was settled; and he was now pleased to see that the Powers had again seriously undertaken to assist at a definite arrangement.

I avoided both giving my opinion or making a statement in reply; but I could not refrain from saying that it was for Greece to consider whether the moment was a propitious one to receive a considerable cession of territory from Turkey, as that country was bankrupt. If Greece now received a large portion of a large and rich province from her, she must be prepared also to take over a large proportion of her National Debt. Turkey would probably never be worse off financially than she was at present, and it might therefore be to the interest of Greece to reflect whether it was the most opportune moment for her to encourage so large a cession of territory in her favour.

His Majesty, however, replied that Greece was quite prepared to accept the debt if she received the addition to her territory she considered she had a right to expect.

My interview lasted considerably over half-an-hour, and His Majesty was most gracious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE, *Military Attaché.*

No. 241.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 66.)
Athens, March 7, 1880.

My Lord,

AT an interview which I had to-day with M. Delyanni, I communicated to his Excellency the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 3rd instant regarding the agreement arrived at between Her Majesty's Government and the French Government relative to the appointment of a Commission to examine and study on the spot a new line of frontier for recommendation to Turkey and Greece.

In regard to this communication, his Excellency remarked, firstly, that the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin and the mediating Powers mentioned in the XXIVth Article of that Treaty were not identical, inasmuch as Turkey was one of the former; and secondly, that he thought that, if the interpretation of the 13th Protocol were left to the Commissioners, there was danger that they might modify it in such a manner as to depart entirely from the basis, that is, the line of the two Vallies, which Greece considers to be her title-deed in this question. His Excellency added that, though the 13th Protocol might be interpreted in various ways, its basis could be neither restricted nor modified.

A telegram, similar in terms to that sent to me by your Lordship and recording the full adhesion of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the agreement in question, has been read to M. Delyanni by the Italian Minister, but he is the only one of the foreign Representatives here who has made a communication to the Greek Government on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 242.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 68.)
Athens, March 7, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DELYANNI informs me that he has instructed the Hellenic Representative at Constantinople to make a reply in the following sense to the Turkish proposal for the delimitation of the frontier:—

In the first place, Greece cannot accept a line, as a basis of negotiation, the boundaries of which are outside the points mentioned in Protocol 13; secondly, as the divergence in the line proposed by the two disputant Powers is so great, the Greek Government is of opinion that no settlement could possibly result from any further discussion; and thirdly, that they are entirely of the opinion which the Hellenic Commissioners expressed some weeks ago to their Turkish colleagues, namely, that the further continuation of direct negotiation could be of no avail, considering how wide a difference existed in the views of the two Powers: that the sittings of the Conference had sufficiently proved this fact, although they had produced no other result, and that therefore no other course remained except that laid down in the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 243.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 72.)
Athens, March 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegram on the 7th instant of the observations made by M. Delyanni on my reading to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram of

the 3rd instant, respecting the appointment of a Commission for tracing the line of frontier. His Excellency now tells me that after deliberating on the subject the Greek Cabinet fully concurred in their observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 244.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 32. Political.)
Scutari, March 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to solicit your Lordship's indulgence for having stated in my telegram of the 27th ultimo, through inadverteney, that the western instead of the eastern side of Lake Scutari offered great difficulties towards an exchange of territory for Gusinjé-Plava.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 245.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 33. Political.)
Scutari, March 2, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd ultimo I had the honour to place before your Lordship the only exchange, in my opinion, which the Porte could offer to Montenegro for Gusinjé-Plava which would be free from the suspicion that it was submitted with the knowledge that it could not be carried out without encountering the same difficulties as encompass the surrender of Gusinjé; but it has in no way been my intention to lessen the conviction expressed in my despatch No. 37 of the 15th February, 1879, that it would be better that the Porte and Montenegro should not be permitted to depart from the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the Turkish Government should be held to a strict fulfilment of its engagements.

Success in effecting the ransom of Gusinjé-Plava would, I fear, not lead to the pacification of Albania, or facilitate in any way the resumption of authority by the Porte in these countries. On the contrary, it would deal not only a mortal blow to Ottoman rule in Europe, but it would also temporarily diminish the influence which the Great Powers must exercise over populations which have to be reclaimed from their present barbarous state, and which it is out of the question to allow to remain under the impression that they can defy the civilized world, as well as dictate terms to their own Government.

It will be useless for the Porte to declare that it will be able to regain peaceably its authority at Ipek, Jacova, and Gusinjé the moment the latter remains to Turkey, as no official going to those districts would be able to govern so long as Mehemet Ali Pasha's murder remained unpunished. To vindicate his influence the Sultan would have to authorize what His Majesty has pronounced impossible, that is, the use of force by his troops against Mahommedans for having resisted submission to Christian rule. This force might perhaps not have to be employed against whole populations, but only against individuals, for the Sultan's religious power in Albania is probably still sufficiently strong to make it possible for his will to be accepted if it is but clearly pronounced, but, I believe, that the engagements taken towards these individuals have been of so solemn a nature that, unless the Great Powers make it understood in the proper quarter, beyond the power of further discussion, that the quiet surrender of Gusinjé-Plava alone can avert consequences much more serious and palpable than the abandonment of that district, the Porte would rest content to have prevented a certain number of Mussulmans coming under Christian jurisdiction, and permit North Albania to continue a centre of anarchy, and be the most barbarous of its provinces, although the nearest to the civilized world.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 246.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 36. Political. Very Confidential.)
Scutari, March 4, 1880.

My Lord,

WITHOUT for a moment doubting the perfect correctness of the explanations furnished by Baron Calice to Sir Henry Elliot with regard to the negotiations which have passed between the Montenegrin Government and Colonel Thoemmel, and communicated to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 27th ultimo, perhaps your Lordship will permit me to explain why I think it still possible that some secret understanding may yet be contemplated between the two Governments.

It was from Colonel Thoemmel himself, when I was last at Cettinjé, that I first heard the belief expressed that the Montenegrins might make a sudden descent upon Scutari, and he thought that it would quickly tend to give a healthy tone to the question concerning the future of Albania. The Austrian Minister's ideas were afterwards repeated to me by others in Montenegro, and did not at all bear the appearance of mere nebulous opinions of how a difficulty might be solved.

Since the return, quite recently, of M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General here, from Vienna, in discussing with him the state of Albanian affairs he has admitted to me that he can hardly foresee a satisfactory settlement of the relations between Montenegro and the Albanians on the present basis. He allows that the Turkish machinations to avoid the absorption of a Mahommedan population by a Christian Principality have undermined the Sultan's power, and have so disorganized all authority that quiet intercourse between the inhabitants on the Turco-Montenegrin borders will be impossible.

M. Lippich also knows that the Roman Catholic tribes are unsettled and uneasy, under the belief of an impending change, and that they desire to be acquired by Austria; but, he says, he never loses an opportunity of declaring that his Government has no intention nor wish to advance beyond Bosnia and the Herzegovina, where the obligations already incurred are proving a most serious tax on the resources and strength of Austria-Hungary. European complications might arise to force the occupation of North Albania, but M. Lippich is under the impression that at Vienna the development of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro into a Ruler of this country would be much preferred.

The easy manner in which the Montenegrins have established their authority at Antivari, Podgoritza, Niksitch, and the other recently-acquired Turkish territories, has proved that their system of administration does not irritate annexed Ottoman populations; and when once the North Albanians come to understand that Europe has no other Prince besides a Petrovich to offer to them, they would probably quickly discover that, by ancient race, he is more of an Albanian than a Montenegrin, and especially so if he is careful to conciliate the Roman Catholic clergy—a course already followed by His Highness at Antivari and elsewhere.

And here, whilst M. Lippich continued to disavow any but a purely private conception of the whole matter, his ideas coincided in a most remarkable manner with those which Colonel Thoemmel had explained to me at Cettinjé.

He thought that the question of the surrender of Gusinjé might lead to the precipitation of the above solution. As far as we could judge from appearances in Albania, there was no likelihood of the Turkish Government making any *bonâ fide* effort to fulfil its engagements; and the preparations being made by the Arnauts to attack Montenegro would soon oblige the Principality to decide that it is better to be at war with a recognized Government than with an irresponsible province, and, after a few forms of diplomacy had been observed, a sudden descent might be made by the Montenegrins on Scutari before the Turks could properly garrison it. As soon as Scutari was captured the Great Powers would be before the fact that the strength of Turkey is still sufficient to crush the Black Mountain standing alone; but as this could not be tolerated for a moment, the decision would have to be taken that vitality and progress must supplant weakness and corruption.

M. Lippich is convinced that, once the Montenegrins are installed at Scutari, their rule would be acquiesced in by the natives as far as the river Mat, thus including all the Roman Catholic mountains and Mirdicia, and hereafter, in possession of populations so important, the plain of Kosovo and Ipek and Jacova would easily join a Principality offering such promise and strength.

In reply to my observation whether Austria-Hungary might not find the increased power of Prince Nicholas an augmentation of the dangers always threatening from Montenegro, M. Lippich said that His Highness had proved so loyal ever since the Treaty of Berlin in

his conduct, that his Government had been rather an assistance than otherwise in the affairs of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and that it must not be forgotten that the junction of Montenegro with North Albania would tend to swamp the Slav element, and would give quite another turn to the interests of the Principality. Perhaps an arrangement might be come to with the Powers by Austria-Hungary to place the foreign relations of the new Government on the same footing as those claimed by England for Afghanistan and other Indian States, but he hardly foresaw the necessity of a measure so likely to wound many susceptibilities.

M. Lippich continued that, doubtless, if insurmountable difficulties arose against the evolution of such a plan, and that if the present condition of the Ottoman Administration was to continue much longer unimproved, the advance of Austria-Hungary might become an unavoidable necessity; and he agreed with me that the North Albanians, through their anxiety to be incorporated with Austria, would not call for the same military and civil expenditure as had arisen in Bosnia, but he repeated again and again that he believed his Government would prefer the growth of the Petrovich Principality into North Albania, where it could ultimately become the friendly neighbour of an Albano-Hellenic State.

In recording these observations of an Austrian official who has quite recently returned from Vienna, where he was in frequent communication with Baron Haymerle, I would also venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact that Prince Nicholas assured me, as early as in the summer of 1877, that the rattle of his rifles would not cease to be heard in these mountains until the River Drin formed the southern frontier of his Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 247.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Scutari, March 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Albanian mountain tribes have been warned by Ali Bey of Gusinjé to hold themselves in readiness for the 5th May to join him in attacking Podgoritza, and that he is making other preparations to begin hostilities against Montenegro.

Prince Nicholas has commenced placing Podgoritza in a state of defence; and here nothing can be observed of any real belief being held by the Albanians or the Turkish officials that a peaceful settlement of pending frontier questions is at all probable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 248.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 19.)

(No. 115.)

Rome, March 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 93 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that I have been informed by Count Maffei that the Montenegrin Government has rejected the last offer of territory made by the Sultan's Government in exchange for Gusinjé; that they have made a counter-proposal, in accordance with the line drawn by the Montenegrin and Russian Commissioners of Delimitation, giving the Porte till the end of this month to accept or refuse it. In the event of refusal the Montenegrin Government will withdraw their Delimitation Commissioner, and appeal to the Powers to carry out the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Corti has been instructed to make this communication to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 249.

Memorandum by Major-General Sir E. Hamley on the Question of fixing the Point in the Turco-Russian Frontier in Asia west of Karaourgan.

THE fixing of this point is a matter which the Governments only can settle.

2. As the matter was left last year, the Russian Government claims a point as laid down in a map which accompanied a Project of Frontier framed by the Turkish and Russian Commissioners at Constantinople, and to which point, according to the Russian allegation, the Turkish Commissioners agreed.

3. By the terms of the Project itself, it is in all particulars subject to the approbation of the two Governments.

4. The Turkish Commissioners disclaim to have agreed to the point in question, and in this disclaimer they are no doubt in accord with their Government.

5. The Russian Government continued up to the suspension of the business to contend for its point. It also asserts that the matter rests solely with it and the Turkish Government.

6. But, even so, the Turkish Government, by withholding its assent, can prevent the fixing of the point according to the Russian claim.

Under these circumstances, I would suggest that good grounds exist for an effort on the part of the British Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to come to an understanding with the Russian Government, and that he might effectively represent—

(1.) That the British Government is showing its sincere desire for a settlement by sending a General Officer as Commissioner, and that as soon as a point is agreed on the work will be at once proceeded with.

(2.) That the point which the Turks would accept, and which the British Government would authorize its Commissioner to start from, besides being in strict accordance with the Treaty, is based on the intelligible reason, always admitted as valid in such cases, of following a natural line, namely, the line of watershed.

(3.) That it is also in agreement with the *wording* of the before-mentioned Project.

(4.) Whereas the line leading to the point claimed by the Russians, besides disagreeing with that wording, abruptly quits, without intelligible reason, the line of watershed which it was following, in order to descend into a valley and cross a stream.

(5.) That this divergence would be of small importance were it not that the Russians are thus drawing nearer to the position of Zevin, and thereby opening up possibilities of fresh differences in settling adjoining parts of the frontier.

(6.) That, should the Russian Government insist, the British Government could not accept the point in dispute until after its Commissioner should have viewed the ground, and ascertained that no consequences would ensue from its adoption which would be at variance with the object of the British Plenipotentiaries when they claimed to take part in the delimitation of that portion of the frontier.

(7.) That in view of the difficulty and delay which will be caused by contesting the point, it may perhaps appear to the Russian Government inexpedient to insist longer; in which case, its concurrence with the other Powers will form a very favourable beginning to the work of the Commission, which may be expected thenceforward to proceed in a spirit of conciliation.

(8.) Should the Russian Government persist in its claim, it should be clearly given to understand that, if the British Commissioner should find himself able, on the spot, to concede the point, it will be with the condition that no ground on the Turkish side of the direct line thence to Medjingert prescribed by the Treaty (in case of that line being modified according to the natural features), will be given to Russia.

It may be well to ascertain by telegraph if the Turkish Government are still decided to dispute the Russian point, before taking action with the Russian Government.

And, although it may be advisable to communicate on the subject forthwith with Lord Dufferin, yet it will be expedient to defer this subject till the matter of Khotour, already broached, shall be arranged.

E. B. H.

March 19, 1880.

No. 250.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, March 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward a translation from the "Golos" of the 13th instant, containing the Protocol of the last meeting of the Special Commission for defining the amount due by Turkey for the maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war, which finished its labours on the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Substance of Article in the "Golos" of March 13, 1880.

THE "Golos" of the 1st 13th March, 1880, states that the Special Commission for defining the amount due by Turkey for the maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war finished its labours on the 25th February 11th March. The Protocol of the meeting contains the following points:—

1. Turkey is bound to pay Russia for the maintenance of Turkish prisoners of war dispatched home by way of Sebastopol and Odessa; and after deducting the cost of maintaining Russian prisoners of war in Turkey, the sum of 4,696,599 roubles, 53 copecks.

2. The date of payment to be reckoned from the 1st 13th March, 1880, the term of payment to extend over 7 years, one-twentieth of the whole sum being paid each time.

3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will indicate where the money is to be paid in.

4. The cost of maintaining Turkish war prisoners who returned to Turkey over the Caucasian frontier will be separately defined by the Russian and Turkish Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

The Protocol was signed on the part of Russia by Lieutenant-General Shulman and Actual Privy Councillor Louba; and on the part of Turkey by Brigadier-General Osman Pasha and Colonel Zia Bey, Turkish Military Attaché at St. Petersburgh.

On the following day Osman Pasha left St. Petersburgh for Constantinople.

No. 251.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 272.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 20, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 232 of the 17th instant, inclosing a copy of an instruction by which Admiral Pothuau has been directed by his Government to make inquiries of Her Majesty's Government on certain points connected with the proposed Greek Frontier Commission; and I now inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the answer which I have returned to the questions put by the French Ambassador in obedience to his instructions on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Admiral Pothuau.

Foreign Office, March 20, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

YOUR Excellency has given me to understand that you have been instructed by your Government to inquire:—

1. Whether Her Majesty's Government propose that the Porte should be represented on the Commission for the delimitation of the Turco-Greek frontier, the Powers generally, being, as the French Government understand, opposed to such an arrangement; and

2. Where it is intended that the proposed Commission should sit; and when it should commence its labours.

In regard to the first of these questions, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have found a disinclination among some of the Powers to the admission of any but the mediating Powers to the Commission. There are arguments of undoubted cogency to be advanced in favour of that view; and Her Majesty's Government have not thought it desirable to raise any controversy on the point. They have therefore contented themselves with proposing that the Commission should consist of Representatives of the mediating Powers.

In regard to the time for the assembling of the Commission, until Her Majesty's Government have received a definitive answer from Turkey on this point it is impossible to give an answer on the subject.

The meetings of the Commission obviously could not take place in the Turkish dominions without the consent of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 253.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 20, 1880.

COUNT CORTI has communicated to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs counter-proposal of Prince of Montenegro received yesterday for cession of territory in exchange for Gusinjé. His Highness gives Porte to the 1st April to accept it, reserving to himself full liberty of action after that time. Count Corti has also informed the Porte that if it be not accepted by that date he will withdraw his arbitration.

Papers are still with the Sultan, and for some reason there appears to be no longer the same anxiety on His Majesty's part to settle this question as there was some days ago.

No. 254.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 299. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 12, 1880.

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram No. 57 of the 9th instant on the following morning, I at once communicated the substance of it to Sawas Pasha. I had also an opportunity of acquainting the Sultan with its contents on the same evening. I yesterday saw his Excellency, and pressed upon him the great importance of not objecting to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for the appointment of an International Commission for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question, calling his urgent attention to the serious consequences which would inevitably ensue if, on account of the opposition of the Porte, this last attempt on the part of Her Majesty's Government to assist Turkey in this matter were to fall through.

Your Lordship's telegram had evidently made a strong impression on his Excellency, perhaps upon the Sultan, as, whilst giving me to understand that the Cabinet had decided upon rejecting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, he said that he was anxious, before any step was taken in the matter, to have a personal and unofficial exchange of views with your Lordship, as he believed that he would place the difficulties and dangers of the proposed Commission in such a light as would persuade your Lordship that the Porte could not, consistently with its own interests and those of Europe, agree to it. His Excellency added that, in order that your Lordship might be fully and accurately informed of his opinions on the subject, he would put them on paper and communicate them to me in the course of the day, *Pro-memorid*, for transmission to your Lordship. I accordingly received from his Excellency, late in the evening, the inclosed memorandum, the substance of which I immediately telegraphed to your Lordship, accompanied by a private letter, of which I also transmit a copy to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 254.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Particulière.)
Chère Excellence, *Ce* 11 *Mars*, 1880.

AINSI que j'ai eu l'honneur de l'annoncer aujourd'hui à votre Excellence, je m'empresse de lui transmettre, ci-joint, un *Pro-memorid* résumant ma manière de voir à propos de la proposition de sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury concernant la question Hellénique.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien communiquer ce *Pro-memorid* à sa Seigneurie en l'assurant qu'il est uniquement destiné à produire un échange de vues officieux propre à lui faire connaître cette question sous son vrai jour.

Je prie le noble Lord de croire que c'est la confiance absolue que je professe à l'égard de ses sentiments de haute équité qui m'engage à ne point lui cacher la vérité sur une mesure que me paraît grosse de dangers et de complications.

Je fais donc en cette circonstance appel à sa bienveillance autant qu'à sa justice, et je compte en même temps sur la précieuse amitié de votre Excellence et sur son puissant concours.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 254.

Pro-memorid.

AYANT étudié avec le plus grand soin le *Pro-memorid* résumant la proposition de sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury relative à la rectification de la frontière Turco-Grecque, j'ai reconnu toute la gravité du principe et des modalités constituant le projet que le *Pro-memorid* en question contient. En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial en fera l'objet de ses plus sérieuses délibérations.

En attendant, et toujours à titre purement officieux, je prendrai la liberté d'avouer à votre Excellence qu'autant que je comprendrai que les principaux Ministres des Puissances se fussent éclairés par les rapports d'hommes compétents chargés par chacun d'eux d'étudier tout ce qui a été fait, écrit, ou dit dans les différentes Conférences sur cette question, autant j'ai peine à comprendre l'utilité d'une étude, enquête, ou excursion que les Délégués des Puissances seraient chargés de faire dans les provinces Ottomanes limitrophes de la Grèce.

Sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury a-t-il bien voulu examiner et pondérer les effets peut-être déplorables, en tout cas fâcheux, que pourrait avoir la présence d'une Commission Européenne investie d'un pareil mandat dans les contrées dont la population, fidèle et dévouée à Sa Majesté Impériale, est travaillée par les intrigues Helléniques et poussée à embrasser l'idée de l'annexion à la Grèce par les nombreux sujets et protégés Hellènes qui ont été installés à cette fin dans ces contrées, et par les émissaires non moins nombreux que le Gouvernement Hellénique y entretient à grands frais? Ce serait sans nul doute jeter dans un pays que l'on s'efforce depuis si longtemps d'agiter des causes de discordes et bientôt les bandes armées provenant de la Grèce aidant des conflits des plus sanglants.

En attirant l'attention la plus sérieuse de votre Excellence sur ce point, et toujours sans préjudice des délibérations du Gouvernement Impérial, je me permettrai de lui demander dès à présent si, dans le cas où les Puissances ne verraient pas à la fois l'inutilité et le danger de cette mission, le Gouvernement Impérial n'accomplirait pas aux yeux du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique un devoir impérieux et sacré en prévenant le mal et en sauvegardant par ses justes objections et son refus la paix publique dans cette partie des Etats de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

No. 255.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 12, 1880.

M. DELYANNI has heard from M. Coundouriotis, the Greek Minister at Constantinople, that the proposal made by the British and French Governments for a Commission to trace on the spot a new line of frontier between this country and Turkey was yesterday

submitted to a Council of Ministers at Constantinople, who unanimously rejected it. In giving me this information, M. Delyanni observed that as the Porte had, by authorizing its Representatives to sign the Berlin Treaty, agreed to the principle therein contained, namely, that recourse should be had to mediation in case no agreement could be arrived at between the two disputant Powers, he was at a loss to understand how they could now raise objections to the mode of procedure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 256.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 12, 1880.

A FEW weeks ago seven Christians, implicated in the insurrection in Thessaly in 1877, residing in the neighbourhood of Volo, were condemned to exile by the Turkish authorities, and were sent from that place, on board a French passenger steam-boat, to Constantinople.

By order of the French Ambassador, however, the captain of the steamer refused to land them, and he brought them, on his return voyage, to the Pireus, where they were put on shore.

I have been informed that these persons were exiled by the Turkish Government in contravention of the terms of the Convention concluded, under the auspices of Great Britain, between the Porte and the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 257.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 13, 1880.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 71 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I gave to M. Delyanni, in form of a *Pro-memorid*, the proposal agreed upon by the French and British Governments for the appointment of a Commission to be charged to trace out a new frontier between Turkey and Greece, as his Excellency desired to be in a position to communicate the exact terms to the King and his colleagues in the Ministry.

The Italian Minister had already communicated unofficially the intelligence to M. Delyanni.

Since then the Government have been informed by their Minister at Berlin that the German Government accepted the proposal.

The Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens has been informed by his Government that they also adhere to it.

The French Minister tells me that he has received a copy of the proposal for his own information.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Russia has received no information from his Government on the subject, and the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires up to this moment has heard nothing from the Porte relative to the proposal.

M. Delyanni has, I understand, sent instructions to M. Gennadius to express to your Lordship the impression made upon the Government on the first unofficial communication made to them in regard to the scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 258.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
Bucharest, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

M. BRATIANO, the Chief of the Roumanian Cabinet, has left Bucharest, proceeding to Berlin by way of Vienna, and will be absent probably two weeks.

This journey of the Prime Minister is taxing the ingenuity and curiosity of most persons here, including a few of my colleagues.

The reason officially alleged for his visit to the German capital is the necessity of deciding some new points in connection with the railways purchased by the State, but there is no doubt whatever that important political reasons are really at the bottom of it.

The armaments going on in Bessarabia and the activity of pro-Russian propagandists in Moldavia have probably contributed to alarm M. Bratiano, and both he and Prince Charles may be supposed to be desirous to obtain some indications as to the prospects of the Dobrudscha becoming a permanent possession for their country, and not a precarious one, before they spend money and contract fresh liabilities for public works in that province and for the Kustendje Railway.

Some months back he suggested a visit of this kind, but ascertained that Prince Bismarck had no inclination to see him as long as the issue of the Jewish question and the carrying out of the Railway Convention by Roumania were hanging in the balance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 259.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 49. Secret.)
Bucharest, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 48, Confidential, of this day's date, I have been confidentially informed that M. Bratiano expects Prince Bismarck will condescend to grant him an interview. Count Hoyos tells me that he has made arrangements so as to enable him to see, not only Baron Haymerle, but likewise Count Andrassy, at Vienna.

As Austria has repeatedly given proofs of late of her sincere desire to promote the interests of this Principality, and see it secured against Russian influence and intrigues, and as Germany is now one with Austria as regards her policy in the Balkanic States, I imagine that the wish of M. Bratiano to establish more intimate relations with these countries deserves approval.

He is a favourite at Vienna, but much less so at Berlin.

After the termination of the Russian war Count Alvensleben, the German Consul-General, made use of his entire influence to oust M. Bratiano, and to place his political adversaries in office. This attempt failed; but it has turned out that the very persons so supported by him have contributed powerfully since to impede the schemes patronised by Germany, viz., the Jewish emancipation and the purchase of the railways.

It is possible, however, that the Prime Minister may still succeed in removing some of the prejudices so strongly fixed in Prince Bismarck's mind against his country.

More than a year ago Lord Odo Russell reported to your Lordship, in his despatch of the 20th January, 1879, the desire of the Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen family that one of the sons of the Hereditary Prince should be adopted as heir by Prince Charles: possibly M. Bratiano will seek for an opportunity for informing himself how far the consent of the German Emperor, as head of that house, could be obtained to such an act. Should any progress be made with this question of succession an attempt is not unlikely to be made at the same time to raise this Principality into a Kingdom.

It is believed that the Austrian Court would not see any insurmountable obstacles to this, provided the new title should be "King of Roumania," and not "of the Roumanians," and on condition that no similar concession of title should be extended to Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 260.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
Bucharest, March 15, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the despatch addressed to your Lordship by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 18th January, 1880, No. 80,* from which it appears that the Porte was going to take up the question of the Greek claims for the endowments of the Holy Places appropriated by Roumania under Prince Couza, I have been told privately, by a person who is likely to know, that the Porte has addressed itself on the subject to Austria, but that the Cabinet of Vienna is not disposed at present to reopen this long-dormant question. I cannot, however, guarantee the correctness of this statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 261.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 19.)
Belgrade, March 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG to inform your Lordship that the Servian Government has named its Delegate to the Commission appointed to inquire into the State properties and religious establishments (vakoufs) belonging to the Sublime Porte, and have intrusted M. Paulovitch, the President of the Court of Commerce at Belgrade, with the post.

It is greatly to be regretted that at this juncture the Turkish Commissioner, Aali Bey, should have been obliged to return to Constantinople on private business, the more especially as he was personally sympathetic to M. Ristich, who seemed inclined to facilitate his mission as far as possible.

The Turkish Government has charged the Ottoman Envoy at Belgrade with the labours of the Commission *ad interim*, and it is therefore hoped that no further delays will occur, as, of the three years granted by the Treaty of Berlin for the settlement of this question, nearly two have elapsed without witnessing even its commencement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 262.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 134.)
St. Petersburgh, March 16, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE GIERS has mentioned to me that trouble was likely to arise between Servia and the Austrian Government in regard to the Railway question; that the Russian Government's advice had been demanded, and that both the Prince and the Prime Minister of Servia had stated that they would sooner quit their posts than yield to the demands of Austria.

While expressing his unwillingness to take too decided a part in the controversy, M. de Giers did not conceal his sympathy with the Servian view of the case.

His Excellency also asserted that the Anglo-Servian Commercial Treaty was looked upon with disfavour by Austria.

On the other hand, the Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that he imagined the Servian Railway difficulty was in a fair way of settlement, adding that it would be unwise for the Servian Government to try the patience of Austria too far.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

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* *Qy.* No. 84.

No. 263.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 138. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 16, 1880.

THE other day I had the honour of an interview with the Prince of Bulgaria.

His Highness spoke very despondingly of the difficulties he encountered in working the Constitution with which the Principality has been endowed, and he alluded with some bitterness to the tutelage in which he was kept by the Russian agents quartered upon him, notably by his Minister of War, General Baranzow, and by an Aide-de-camp of the Emperor, whose name I did not catch; but the person with whom he seemed most annoyed was General Milutine, under whose immediate superintendence the "ingérence" of Russia in the affairs of the Principality seems principally conducted.

I understand that the Prince has succeeded in inducing the Emperor to consent to the removal of the two obnoxious persons above mentioned, and perhaps to bounds being placed to General Milutine's right of interference.

The Prince further alluded to the possibility of his resignation, or of a *coup d'état* in the near future.

I reminded His Highness that he was a young man, that he had his life before him and could afford to wait, that perhaps by patience the difficulties of the situation might be surmounted, and that it would be very unwise in him to embark upon any rash courses. One of his principal discomforts arises from the way in which the Panslavist agitators represent everything that he does adverse to their own designs as prompted by his sympathy, as a born German, with Austro-German interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 264.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 12, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship, by telegraph, that Baron Haymerle had asked me whether it was intended that the Porte should be represented on the proposed Commission for the settlement of the Greek frontier.

Although it appeared to him doubtful whether Turkey, as one of the parties directly interested, should have a Member on the Commission of the mediating Powers, the expression in your Lordship's proposal that each of the Signatory Powers, of which Turkey was one, should send a Commissioner, left him in some doubt upon the point.

His Excellency further said that if Turkey was to have a Commissioner, he thought that Greece, though not a Signatory Power, ought in some way to be represented likewise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 265.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 17, 1880.

THE Turkish Ambassador tells me that, having been instructed to convey to the Emperor the congratulations of the Sultan upon the betrothal of the Prince Imperial, he had been much pleased by the friendly feeling towards Turkey which His Majesty had taken the opportunity of showing.

The Emperor had especially expressed his recognition of the measures adopted by the Porte for maintaining tranquillity on the Lim, and for preventing, as far as it could, the recurrence of conflicts such as that which occurred a few weeks ago.

The Emperor, in speaking to me lately of this incident, had remarked that though there had been as usual, on the part of the Porte, a want of the energy required to maintain

order, it was only fair to remember how difficult the task was, and the real inability of the Sultan's Government to perform it thoroughly.

The Ambassador added that he was glad of the opportunity of expressing to the Emperor his recognition of the humane manner in which the Mussulmans were being treated in Bosnia and the Herzegovine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 266.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 134. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March* 18, 1880.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 98, Secret, inclosing copies of despatches from Mr. Corbett respecting French and Italian intrigues in the Balkan Peninsula, and, without giving any indication of the source from which the reports had reached me, I have endeavoured to ascertain what credit was attached to them by the Imperial Government.

As far as I can learn, no suspicion is entertained of there being French agency engaged in these intrigues, but, on the other hand, they are believed to be fomented by Italians belonging to the party of the "Italia Irredenta," though no insinuation has been made to me of their being encouraged by the Italian Government.

There is, however, here an undoubted impression that there prevails in Italy a secret hope that sooner or later there may occur events which may render it possible to annex the Epirus, or a portion of it, to that kingdom.

This belief was very clearly exhibited a few days ago by Baron Haymerle, to whom, in speaking of the proposed new Greek frontier, I alluded to the importance attached by Turkey to the continued possession of Prevesa. His Excellency replied that, though this might be quite true, there was another consideration which must not be forgotten, for, looking to the future, if the South Epirus were annexed to Greece, it would be infinitely more difficult for any other Power to put forward pretensions for it than if it continued a part of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 267.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 130. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 19, 1880.

M. DEMÉTRI STOURDZA and M. Kalindéro arrived in Berlin some time since from Bucharest to complete the negotiations respecting the Railway Convention, and they have now been joined by M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, whose special object in coming to Berlin is said to be a final settlement of the Arab-Tabia question, and the establishment of more intimate relations with the Berlin Cabinet than have lately existed between Germany and Roumania.

The statement which has appeared in the newspapers, that M. Bratiano was going to Berlin to advocate the elevation of the Principality of Roumania to the more ambitious position of a Kingdom, appears to be premature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 268.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 131. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 20, 1880.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 130 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that M. Bratiano has since called on me to express the deep and sincere

satisfaction felt by himself and his colleagues at the recognition of Roumanian independence by Her Majesty's Government, and at the appointment as Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest of Mr. White, whose great abilities and amiable qualities, he said, were appreciated and highly valued by Prince Charles and every Roumanian who enjoyed his acquaintance.

The Roumanian Government, M. Bratiano said, looked to Her Majesty's Government for advice and moral support in the responsible task—the development of the national independence of their country—imposed upon them, and requested me to convey to your Lordship the expression of their thanks for the friendly disposition Her Majesty's Government had already manifested towards them through Mr. White.

M. Bratiano then went on to say that he had come himself to Berlin for two reasons:—

First, and officially, to watch the carrying out of the Railway Convention, and, secondly, and secretly, to "sound" the German Government as to the prospects of the future, since the geographical position of Roumania between Austria and Russia exposed her to great dangers and complications in the event of war. He was happy to tell me that he had been most kindly received by Prince Bismarck immediately on his arrival in Berlin, and most graciously by the Emperor on the following day, and that he had left both the Emperor and the Chancellor with the conviction that peace would be preserved in Europe.

He would therefore only remain a few days longer in Berlin, and would then return, viâ Vienna to Bucharest, under the happy and reassuring impression that the Austro-German alliance was a guarantee of peace for Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 269.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 2.) *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, March* 22, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to request that permission may be obtained for the following officers to accompany me as Members of the Asiatic Boundary Commission, namely:—

Captain F. R. de Wolski, R.E.
Lieutenant J. J. Leverson, R.E.

I have ascertained that both officers are available at once.

Captain de Wolski is already known to your Lordship as having served on the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission, and Lieutenant Leverson's qualifications for the present purpose are highly spoken of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 270.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 133.) *Constantinople, March* 21, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Mr. St. John, received to-day:—

"In consequence of a threatened attack on Prisrend by the mountain tribes, this town has been surrounded by troops."

No. 271.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 52.) *Cairo, March* 21, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL ZOHRAB reports under date of Jeddah, March 15:—

"As the Grand Sheriff entered Jeddah on the previous day he was stabbed by a man

in Dervish costume named Khorassanee Fahrudden. His Highness died that morning. Excitement intense."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 272.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 53.) *Cairo, March* 21, 1880.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received this day at 5 P.M. from Mr. Zohrab, dated Jeddah, March 15, viâ Aden:—

"Please communicate following at once to London and Constantinople:—

"'Greatly apprehend Aboo Moutalep, of Devized tribe, now in Constantinople, being intimate with Sultan, will be made High Sheriff; if so, this country will be covered with blood. He and his [not] numerous relations are noted for fanatical hatred of Christians and foreigners, even Indians.

"'Awn [? Ali] Pasha, also in Constantinople, brother of deceased, is rightful successor, [? and] must be appointed; his family [? being] powerful in Hedjaz, liberal and enlightened.

"'Please communicate above to Netherlands Minister on part of Consul here.

"'British interests absolutely demand Awn [? Ali] Pasha's appointment; beg Ambassador to see him. I cannot too strongly urge his appointment; Governor, employés, [?] merchants entreat this. At least suspend nomination until my [? despatches] reach.'"

No. 273.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 71.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1880, 6·50 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT will be desirable to come to a preliminary arrangement with Russian Government as to the point near Karaourgan from which tracing of Alashgerd frontier should commence.

Pray ascertain from Turkish Government whether they are ready to maintain the objections, already stated by their Commissioners and by Colonel Clarke, to the deviation of the frontier-line from the watershed at this point, which was marked upon the maps, but which is not in accordance with the description given in the project of frontier drawn up by the Turkish and Russian Commissioners.

No. 274.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 72.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1880, 6·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 13th and 17th instant, have you any answer as to date of meeting of Asiatic Frontier Commission?

We shall be glad also to learn decision as to Khotour question as soon as possible.

No. 275.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 199.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1880.
Sir,

IN the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it seems desirable that the point near Karaourgan, whence the tracing of the Alashgerd frontier should commence, should form the subject of a preliminary arrangement with the Russian Government.

With this view, I have this day requested your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain from the Ottoman Government whether they are prepared to maintain the objections

* A similar telegram was sent to the Earl of Dufferin.

which have already been stated, both by the Turkish Commissioners and by Colonel Clarke, to the deviation of the line of frontier from the watershed at this point near Karaourgan, which was marked upon the maps, but which does not agree with the description given in the project of frontier which was drawn up by the Turkish and Russian Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 203.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu relative to the case of certain refugees from Licoursi, in Epirus, who were brought over to Corfu by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" during the insurrection which occurred in the province in the commencement of 1878.*

These people are now desirous of returning to their homes, and have apparently petitioned the Sultan, through the Turkish Consul-General at Corfu, for an amnesty and the restoration of their village.

I leave it to your Excellency's discretion to decide whether you can properly advance the prayer of the petitioners by a representation to the Turkish authorities in their behalf. The observations made by Mr. Reade as to the policy of removing any well-founded cause of discontent seem well worthy of consideration

The despatches of Consul Sir C. Sebright on the subject of the arrival of these refugees in Corfu will be found in the papers laid before Parliament on the subject of the insurrection in Thessaly and Epirus ("Turkey No. 32 (1878)," pp. 23, 24).

A copy of Sir C. Sebright's later despatch upon the subject of their memorial is inclosed herewith.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 277.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 23. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March* 23, 1880.

I AM confidentially informed that Prince Charles has written to Prince Bismarck to solicit his consent and support in regard to title of King of Roumania, which the Chambers are to confer upon him by acclamation when M. Bratiano returns to Bucharest.

Prince Bismarck, who now wants Roumania to join Austro-German alliance against Russia, is sure to support the scheme, and to advocate it at Vienna.

No. 278.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 24. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March* 24, 1880.

M. BRATIANO has given up his journey to Paris, and has gone to talk over the Roumanian succession question with Prince Charles' family, as reported in my despatch No. 38 of the 20th January, 1879. He then returns to Bucharest viâ Vienna, Haymerle having asked to see him.

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* Sir C. Sebright, No. 3.

† Sir C. Sebright, No. 6, 1879.

No. 279.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(Separate.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 24, 1880.

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the arrangements proposed in your despatch marked Separate of the 18th instant for resuming the operations of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 280.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that two more battalions of Redifs left Prisrend this morning for Verisovich, the nearest station on the line of railway between Salonica and Mitrovich.

There remain now only 4 battalions of infantry, 2 batteries of artillery, and 2 squadrons of cavalry.

It is said that the vacancy occasioned by the departure of these troops will be filled up by Nizams, but my information on this point is not authentic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 281.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, February* 27, 1880.

THE departure within the last few days of seven battalions, together with the passive demeanour of Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, is already producing a baneful effect on the population of this town.

Armed persons are to be seen about the streets, and acts of oppression and violence are of daily occurrence.

A conversation that took place at my house to-day between Moukhtar Pasha and myself vividly characterizes the Turkish official.

Having referred to the case of a Christian named Aristo Tfeteo, from the neighbouring village of Bogosefza, who, on leaving the town yesterday, was attacked by a Mussulman, severely wounded, and had his horse taken away, his Excellency said that my information was perfectly correct, and that he had taken the affair in hand; but, unfortunately, nothing was known of the guilty party.

Upon this I produced a slip of paper, on which the man's name was written in Turkish characters.

His Excellency, after perusing it attentively for some time, remarked: "This must be the same person who assassinated Mehemet Ali's telegraphist?" "No," I replied, "it is his brother!"

The matter is no secret, and both assassins (for the victim is in hospital and not expected to live) are to be seen daily walking about the streets of Prisrend.

Another case of intimidation occurred to-day. A man presented himself in several shops and threatened to shoot the occupants unless he was immediately supplied with money.

After having well filled his pockets he quietly walked off, to the astonishment of all beholders.

I have only mentioned two cases, yet acts of a like nature are being perpetrated every day.

They will give your Lordship some idea of what we may expect should Moukhtar Pasha and his battalions take their departure—a contingency far from improbable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 282.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 13. Political.) *Prisend, March 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I accompanied Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha on a shooting expedition.

During a long ride his Excellency volunteered to impart the policy which he intended to pursue for the re-establishment of order and security to the Christian population in this province.

On account, he said, of the present excited state of the Albanians, and the rebellious spirit which pervaded the public mind, to put on pressure would be the signal for an insurrection which the Government would find it difficult to cope with. It would therefore be more prudent to await the solution of the Gusinjé and Greek Frontier question, when the Albanians would be somewhat appeased, and he should be better able to carry out his administrative reforms.

In order to attain his object, he added, the co-operation of the Chiefs was essential; but in this he had difficulties to contend with, for though he had made proposals to convene a meeting, his overtures had hitherto met with no encouragement.

I have no doubt that the majority of the population would like to see a new order of things established, and that the Chiefs would be glad to come to terms with the authorities; but, unfortunately, the Government has so often had recourse to treachery that any overtures made by those in power, however plausible, would be looked upon with suspicion, as it is fully believed that Mukhtar Pasha's intention is to lead them into a trap.

As an instance, I will relate what happened in the district of Lucna two months ago: In consequence of the systematic brigandage that was being carried on, from which the Mussulman population were the principal sufferers, it became absolutely necessary that immediate steps should be taken for the suppression of robberies on so large a scale.

Accordingly, the Chief of the brigands was invited by Fikri Pasha, the Governor of the district, to an interview, ostensibly for the purpose of coming to some arrangement; but on his way to the place of meeting an ambush was prepared, where he and all his followers were slaughtered by the military.

Though the victims met with their deserts, the procedure of the authorities was scarcely to be commended, nor calculated to inspire confidence on a future occasion. Hence the reluctance on the part of the Chiefs of Jakova to respond to Mukhtar Pasha's invitation.

His Excellency has now sent a message to the effect that if one of them would come to Prisrend he should have the protection of any person whom they might select, inferring that if they were willing to place themselves under my charge they were at liberty to do so.

I am in no way desirous to mix myself up in the affairs of the country; but if circumstances should afford me an opportunity of being useful to the community at large, and thereby more particularly to the Christian population, I shall forego neither trouble nor personal risk.

As Ali Ibra, one of the Chiefs with whom I am on friendly terms, has expressed a desire to see me, I have sent a message to say that I was willing to meet him at any place he might indicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 283.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 14. Political.) *Prisrend, March 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

NOTWITHSTANDING Mukhtar Pasha's assertions, that the present time was inopportune for adopting severe measures in North Albania, I am convinced in my own mind that he, or the Government under whose orders he acts, is procrastinating with some ulterior object in view; and that there exists no reason why order should not at once be established, and an end put to this cruel persecution of the Christians.

From Ipek we have received satisfactory intelligence, to the effect that 160 of the very worst characters had been put into prison; and that the safety of the Christian population there was for the present assured. But from Jakova the accounts are still as bad as ever.

A traveller who called on me yesterday, and who had quite lately visited both places, fully corroborated what I had previously heard, and stated that his brother, who was a Christian, and a resident of Jakova, had not left his room for nearly a year for fear of being assassinated.

This morning I received a visit from an influential young Mussulman, an inhabitant of Jakova, whose uncle had been assassinated with Mehemet Ali. He informed me that no difficulties existed for the establishment of order by the Government, if only it had the desire to do so.

That the majority of the population were well-disposed; but that they could do nothing so long as the Government abstained from giving them any support.

I have strongly advised this person to call on Mukhtar Pasha, and I shall not fail to talk the matter over with his Excellency the first time I have an opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 284.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, March 5, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been occupying myself during the last few days with the affairs of Jakova.

Several Chiefs have called upon me to submit plans for the re-establishment of tranquillity and the protection of the Christian population; and at my suggestion have asked and obtained an interview of Mukhtar Pasha, by whom they were well received.

The language held to them by his Excellency leads me to hope that in a few days all obstacles to the return to Jakova of the Catholic clergy and the Christian fugitives will be removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 285.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Cattarina, March 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, and two inclosures, I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to the state of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 285.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Cattarina, March 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to my most recent Report from Salonica on Macedonian affairs, and to my telegrams announcing the incursions of armed bands of Bulgarians in the direction of Juma, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, extract of a letter from my correspondent at Serres relative to the appearance and proceedings of some of these bands in that town.

I have also heard from Salonica that the Austrian Consul-General, M. de Mentlong, who acts as German Consul, has given formal notice to the Governor-General that he considers the Ottoman Government directly responsible for the safety of M. Marulis,

the person mentioned by my correspondent as having been summoned by these rebels to pay 100 liras. I should add that M. Marulis, though a Hellenic subject, is considered by the German Consulate under its protection, on the ground that he directs a school established at Serres by a German Protestant Missionary Society. The Commander-in-chief here, having communicated the circumstances by telegraph to the Porte, representing the urgency of dispatching immediate military assistance to the town of Serres, was authorized to call under arms the battalion of redifs of that district, which battalion was disbanded a short time ago. The Minister of War advising him of the dispatch of three battalions from Constantinople to Salonica, the Commander-in-chief thereupon ordered the battalion of Nizams there to proceed by forced marches to Serres.

From other places in Macedonia accounts have also been received by the Commander-in-chief relative to the doings of these bands.

The Governor of Drama telegraphs, under date 23rd ultimo, that a band of seventeen Bulgarians having appeared in the vicinity of Zikhné, and there committed depredations, a strong detachment of police was sent in pursuit, and attacked the band near the village of Cornitza, killing five and capturing seven, one of whom was wounded. Of the police only one is reported wounded.

The Governor of Stromnitza reports that, on the morning of the 27th February, a band of twenty armed men fired upon some travellers on the road from that town to Salonica, whereupon a military detachment in the neighbourhood, assisted by some armed Turkish villagers, pursued the band, and succeeded in coming up with it in the Kiztasch ravine, when a serious conflict ensued, resulting in five of the Bulgarians being killed and seven wounded; the loss of the Turks being four killed (two soldiers and two villagers), and two soldiers wounded.

Mr. Langdon, who directs a cotton mill at Serres owned by a British merchant at Smyrna, informed me a day or two before my departure from Salonica that a band of robbers prowling in the vicinity of Serres, and supposed to be Bulgarians, attacked and robbed of 50*l.* one of his men, whom he had sent to the villages to purchase cotton for the mill. I represented the matter to the Vali, who telegraphed stringent orders to the authorities at that town, who, as your Excellency will have gathered from my correspondent's letter, are powerless, and I have since received from Mr. Langdon a complaint on the subject, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 285.

Extract of a Letter from Serres dated February 26, 1880.

I TAKE advantage of the present opportunity to report to you new deeds of violence on the part of the so-called "Comitas," *alias* bandits.

The band of Kuku sacked the village of ——— keui, an hour distant from Serres; the village of Prastina was also visited by it, and ransoms taken from same.

On the 24th instant M. Demetrius Maruli was superintending the construction of a café on a hill just outside Serres, when he observed at a distance suspicious-looking individuals; he immediately suspected they were the Comitas ready to capture him; he fled in hot haste and informed the police; the latter (30 zaptiehs) hurried to the spot, accompanied by M. Maruli; their efforts, however, led to no result.

Towards sunset, while a thunder-cloud was passing over Serres, the Comitas entered the first suburb of the place, and commenced a lively fusilade, firing volley after volley over the tiles of the town, the musket-balls falling in the streets, to the immense excitement and alarm of the Serres townsfolk.

The number of the Comitas is uncertain—it is supposed from 50 to 100 individuals. They are well armed with Martini rifles. During this time the policemen were nowhere; fortunately no one was hurt. It was merely a bravado of the Comitas to announce their presence and reappearance for the coming year, and to assure the authorities here that they are not afraid of them.

Next day, however, letters were sent to different persons demanding ransoms to the aggregate sum of 3,000*l.*, and that if the amount were not forthcoming they would wreak their vengeance on the city. From M. Maruli 100*l.* were demanded. As he directs a school under Prussian patronage, I am told he telegraphed to Berlin he would not hesitate to pay, as he was afraid for his safety, and that the Turkish Government was incompetent to protect him.

It is said that the bandits are still roaming in the vicinity of Serres, perfectly unconcerned, and to all accounts they lead a very jolly and convivial bandit life.

Such is the present state of things in Serres. I need not make further comments on it.

Inclosure 3 in No. 285.

Mr. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Serres, February 25, 1880.*

NOTHING has been done as yet in regard to the robbery; and if the robbers be captured, which is a most remote probability, I am assured by public opinion here no cash would ever be forthcoming, even if same were found on the persons of the robbers.

As this robbery and the attempted assassination took place just out of the gates of Serres, and as the authorities have not been able to capture the culprits, therefore, in the name of British interests I represent here, I protest against the local authorities for their incompetence and negligence in not adopting efficient measures to prevent such occurrences and securing public safety.

I therefore hold them responsible, and demand the cash from them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. LANGDON.

No. 286.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of your Lordship's despatch No. 15 of the 10th ultimo, forwarding, for transmission to the Bulgarian Government, a set of Protocols and maps of the Servian Frontier Commission.

I have forwarded the same to M. Natchovitz, and have informed his Excellency that this communication must be considered as unofficial, the frontier-line not having been as yet ratified by the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 287.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, containing a list of the Deputies recently elected in the district of Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 287.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Varna, February 19, 1880.*

BELOW I have the honour to give you the names of the twenty-seven persons elected in the Governmental district of Varna as Deputies to the forthcoming National Assembly:—

Varna, town: Tutundji Osman Effendi, Costaki Biyikhioghlou (Mustakidis).
Villages: Veliko Petkof.
Kozloudja: Nicholas Daskaloff.

Baltchik: The Metropolitan Simeon.
Bezardjik: Mufti Halibullah, Stoil Popof Hadji Ivanof.
Pravadi: The Metropolitan Simeon, Yorghi Ballerski, Pop Radof, Lazari Doukof.
Silistria: Marin Tishtchef.
Avlalarska: Vassil Popovitch, Christo Brameren, Petro Manolof.
Karakatchka: Hafyz Bilal, Idriz Oghlou Ahmed.
Rahman Ashiklar: Terdjuman Ahmed, Mihalaki Koloni.
Shoumla: Clement Branitski, Todor Iconomof, Constantin Stoilof, Simeon Vaitchef, Dr. Radoslavof, Shakir Essad Effendi, Ismail Memish Effendi.

According to the Bulgarian Constitution, every 10,000 of the population is supposed to elect a Representative, but this is not exactly the actual case, because in the voting centres there are often large fractions over. Were these united, about four or five more members would be returned for the "Government" of Varna.

The result is, contrary to the last elections, to give a majority to the so-called Conservatives, except in the Silistria district, and this exception is owing, according to official statement, to the oppressive acts of the "Natchalnik" of that town.

Nor so many complaints have been heard this time of the authorities committing arbitrary acts to influence the returns; but undoubtedly both they and the priests have given their best endeavours in the interim between the dissolution of the last Assembly and the present elections to secure candidates favourable to the Ministry now in power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 288.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 145.)
St. Petersburgh, March 20, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 84 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from M. de Giers relative to the appointment of Major-General Hamley as British Delegate on the Asiatic Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 288.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

St. Petersbourg, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Mars, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

EN réponse à la note que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le $\frac{4}{16}$ de ce mois, par rapport à la nomination du Major-Général Hamley en qualité de Délégué Britannique à la Commission de Délimitation Anglo-Turque en Asie, en remplacement du Colonel Clarke, je m'empresse de vous informer que je ne manquerai pas de vous faire connaître l'époque où la dite Commission renouvellera ses séances, aussitôt que j'en aurai reçu avis de la part du Ministre de la Guerre.

J'ai également reçu la lettre de votre Excellence du $\frac{9}{21}$ de ce mois, relative à l'affaire de Kotour. Je me réserve d'y répondre après m'être plus amplement informé sur la ligne de démarcation proposée par le Major-Général Zelenoi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 289.

Consul Zohrab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(Telegraphic.)
Jeddah, March 21, 1880.

TELEGRAM of the 11th received.

Assassination of Grand Sheriff arrested everything. If Omu Pasha succeeds, I am sure that all we may want will be done by him. Political condition of all Arabia demands, in

our interest, his appointment. If Abdul Mutaleb or a member of his family is appointed, he would cause much blood to fall, and, being fanatical, would fan hatred against us in India and Afghanistan; of this I am assured by such as know the family well.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 24, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 70.

Sultan, whom I saw to-day, informed me that he had appointed Abou Moutaleb Grand Sheriff of Mecca. I warned His Majesty that information had reached me that this nomination might lead to serious disorders and bloodshed in Arabia. His Majesty said that he could not do otherwise than appoint him, but that, as he is above 90 years old, he could not live long, and that, on his death, his successor would be Aveni Oun Pasha, the person mentioned in Mr. Zohrab's telegram. His Majesty added that he had received most solemn assurances from the new Sheriff of his intention to maintain order, and that the great influence he possessed in Arabia would enable him to do so.

No 291.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 137. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 24, 1880.

THERE are strong grounds for suspecting that the assassination of the Sheriff of Mecca is to be attributed to Abou Mutaleb, whose son went three months ago to Jeddah, it is supposed, to bring it about, and that the Sultan or the people about him may not have been altogether unconnected with it. It has been known here for some time, and I informed you of it, that His Majesty wished to get rid of him, and his brother had been warned of his danger. He was suspected on account of his relations with us. I have reason to believe that all the communications which passed between him and Consul Zohrab's Dragoman were reported here, probably by the Pasha of Jeddah. A person who keeps me well informed on these matters strongly urges me that some English ships of war should be sent at once to Jeddah, as it is highly probable that the appointment of Abou Mutaleb may lead to serious events.

No. 292.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, March 25, 1880.

I HAVE been continually pressing Giers for an answer about date of meeting of Asiatic Frontier Commission and for his decision as to Khotour question. I saw him again this day. With regard to the first, he says he is waiting for a reply from the Minister of War, who is very slow, and with respect to latter, that he had to telegraph for map, though I myself lent him one. He seems inclined to agree to Hamley's proposition.

No. 293.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25, 3·10 P.M.)

(No. 60. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Cairo, March 25, 1880.

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople:—

"I have received despatches to-day for your Excellency from Zohrab about Grand Sheriff, and will forward them on Monday.

"He says that he is assured that if Abdul Moutaleb is named not only will Christians have to abandon Jeddah, but all the Indians and most of the Arabs would quit the country. The Governor-General, Kaimakam, and many merchants have begged him to avert this calamity. He remarks that support of Omu family is obligatory on England on account of friendliness it has always shown us, and circumstance that the late Grand Sheriff met his death in coming to Jeddah for our sake."

No. 294.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1880, 3·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Constantinople to-day; please communicate it to Mr. Zohrab:—

[See No. 290.]

No. 295.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, March* 12, 1880.

THE Governor-General has convoked the Provincial Assembly in Extraordinary Session for the 22nd instant.

The matters which will be submitted to the Provincial Assembly are enumerated in the inclosed extract from the "Maritza."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Extract from the "Maritza" of $\frac{\text{February}}{\text{March}}$ $\frac{22}{12}$, 1880.

PAR Décret du Gouverneur-Général en date du $\frac{\text{7me Février}}{\text{1er Mars}}$, l'Assemblée Provinciale est convoquée en Session Extraordinaire pour le $\frac{12}{22}$ courant. Dans cette Session, qui durera jusqu'au $\frac{\text{1er Mars}}{\text{13me Mars}}$, l'Assemblée s'occupera des objets que le Décret de Convocation détermine, conformément à l'Article 87 du Statut Organique. Ces observations sont: (1) Budget de l'année financière, qui commence le $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, 1880, et finit le $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, 1881; (2) projet de loi sur la presse; (3) projet de loi sur la construction d'un chemin de fer provincial de Bourgas à Philippopoli; (4) projet de loi sur les prêts à faire aux agriculteurs; (5) projet de loi autorisant un emprunt pour la construction de l'embranchement Bourgas-Yamboli et pour les prêts aux agriculteurs; et (6) projet de loi sur les poids et mesures.

No. 296.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, March* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 94 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Circular (an original printed form of which is in my possession), issued by the Central Gymnastic Society to the several branches of that organization in accordance with resolutions passed at the meeting of the Central Society on the $\frac{15}{27}$th June last.

This document enjoins compliance with the "resolutions adopted at Slivno by the Representatives of Southern Bulgaria on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd May last, resolutions which constituted the future programme of the Central Administration at Plovdiv (Philippopoli)."

On the 2nd November last I forwarded to your Lordship a translation of the Protocol of the first meeting of those "Representatives," held on the $\frac{14}{26}$th May, 1879.

The seditious character of the Central Gymnastic Society at Philippopoli is thus fully established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 296.

Circular of Central Gymnastic Society to Sub-Committees.

(Translation from the Bulgarian.)

Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Society,
Plovdiv, 18 .

To the Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Society at .

THE Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Society, at a meeting held on the $\frac{14}{26}$th June, at which meeting were laid the foundations of the Central Administration, a Bureau formed, a quarterly Budget prepared for that administration, and at which many other decisions were taken (as will be seen from the accompanying Protocol), it was resolved also to address a Circular to all the District Administrations, in order to acquaint them formally with those decisions which, according to adopted law, must be carried into execution without delay.

1. The Bureau of the Central Administration has been constituted as follows:—

Mr. G. Konsuloff, President; Mr. W. Morfoff, Cashier; Mr. M. P. Ikonomoff, Secretary.

2. In accordance with the Budget of the Central Administration and in conformity with the established assessment of districts, your District Administration must pay, within the briefest delay, into the cash-box of the Central Administration at Plovdiv, the sum of 600 fr. for the purpose of covering the expenditure of the Central Administration during a period of three months.

3. In consequence of the resolutions adopted at Slivno by the representatives of Southern Bulgaria on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd May, resolutions which constituted the future programme of the Central Administration at Plovdiv. You must direct your strict attention to the regular and punctual (exact) drilling of the members of the Gymnastic Societies, which drilling must take place at least once a-week.

4. You must endeavour by peaceable means and by persuasion to collect the sums already subscribed, as well as the new voluntary aid.

5. The sums collected as voluntary aid you will arrange to pay into a bank in the name of your District administration, and as regards such a bank the Central Administration prefers the National Bulgarian Bank at Sophia.

No. 297.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, March* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a petition which was addressed to me on the 6th instant by a Mussulman, who was prevented by the post of gymnasts which guards the Tahtali Pass in the Balkans, as well as by the Bulgarian Mayor of the village of the same name, from continuing his journey to Philippopoli.

Having left his family as hostages at Tahtali, and paid a "Backshish" of 5 piastres to the Mayor of Tahtali, he went to Staninaka, but failing to procure there a teskere or permit to enter the province to which he belongs, he came to lodge his complaint at this Consulate-General.

I placed him at once in communication with the competent authorities, but two days having passed without any effect having been given to his petition, I applied unofficially for the permit, and asked under what law natives of this province were prevented from returning to their homes by a band of gymnasts stationed at Tahtali?

I was informed in reply that, under an arrangement with Réouf Pasha and the Porte, refugees had for some months past not been allowed to enter the province, but that the

orders which had been issued by the Central Government to that effect would probably soon be annulled. I was also told that, as an exception to the order still existing, the Mussulman would obtain a permit from the Prefect of this Department.

The Mussulman in question consequently obtained the permit the same day, and left at once to fetch his family from Tahtali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Pétition from Békir Hodja.

(Traduction.)

JE suis originaire de Philippopoli, demeurant au quartier de Turbéki-Hodja.

Depuis notre émigration, l'année passée, je me trouve d'un côté et ma famille est dispersée de l'autre.

Enfin je suis arrivé au village de Dolachlar où j'ai demeuré pendant quelque temps, et j'ai pu vivre avec ma famille, grâce à l'aide des Musulmans du dit village.

Maintenant, voulant rentrer dans ma patrie accompagné de ma femme, j'ai quitté Dolachlar.

En arrivant au village de Tahtale, le corps de garde qui se trouvait là, ainsi que le Tchorbadji du dit village, m'ont arrêté, et le lendemain m'ont dit que je devrais retourner d'où je venais.

Enfin, pour pouvoir prendre un Teskéré de permission, il m'a été permis d'aller jusqu'à Stanimaka. Dans cette ville j'ai réclamé un Teskéré, mais les autorités m'ont répondu que c'est à Philippopoli qu'on devait me délivrer un Teskéré.

Arrivé donc à Philippopoli j'ai fait part de mon affaire au Président de la Commission de Repatriement, "Zoko Agha." Ce dernier ma donné des réponses vagues et je n'ai pu obtenir un Teskéré.

Depuis dix jours ma femme m'attend au village de Tahtali sans nourriture.

De grâce, je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de faire les démarches qui vous jugerez à propos pour m'obtenir un Teskéré d'autorisation pour que je puisse rentrer dans ma patrie avec ma famille.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) BÉKIR HODJA.

Philippopoli, le 23 Février (v. s.), 1880.

No. 298.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 130.)

Philippopoli, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to forward to your Lordship on the 13th ultimo the copy of a report which had been made to the Central Refugee Committee on the condition of the Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Egriler, situated in the neighbouring district of Konush (Conouch).

The Central Committee sent immediate relief to that village and communicated with the Governor-General, who dispatched one of his Secretaries to verify the Report which had been transmitted to him by the Committee.

The Secretary in question, Mr. Mateoff (formerly Secretary to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia), reported that the distress was not so great as had been represented by the agent of the Relief Committee, since he had found the colibas very cleanly swept, and since also he had found several of the families cooking meat, while in one hut he had found four skins full of maize.

It was proved, however, that the huts had been recently swept with the brooms which had been supplied by the Committee for that purpose at the special request of the Imam; that the meat seen by Mr. Mateoff was the flesh of a diseased cow, and that the four skins of maize represented a precautionary measure against starvation adopted by the only man in the village who was rich enough to make such a provision.

Mr. Mateoff also disputed the alleged mortality from famine which had been reported to the Committee, and in his capacity of Reuter's Agent he sent a telegram to that effect to the London papers.

Nevertheless, Mr. Mateoff called at the Consulate-General about three weeks ago to assure me that the Bailli of Hadji Elles had been ordered to supply the villagers of Egriler with corn sufficient for their support during a period of at least twenty days.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople placed at the disposal of the Committee a sum of 200*l.* sterling for distribution at Egriler and the villages contiguous to it, and the Committee left the matter of such distribution in my hands.

Owing to the assurances that had been given to me by Mr. Mateoff, I was induced to postpone the distribution of that money until the supply promised by the Government had almost run out.

On the 7th instant, however, I sent my Secretary, Mr. A. Simmons, to inquire into the condition of the Mussulman villagers in the District of Konush, with the object of determining the extent and the character of the relief which the villages severally required.

It is with much pain that I now forward to your Lordship the Report which Mr. Simmons has addressed so me. Mr. Simmons states that a fortnight ago, *i.e.*, about a week after Mr. Mateoff had given me the assurances above mentioned, the Government had distributed among the refugees of Egriler the sum of about 45 liras, or about 1*s.* 3*d.* per head.

In another village about 3 lbs. of maize had been distributed, also, a fortnight ago, to each of its 322 inhabitants

In a third hamlet, inhabited by 650 refugees, the latest relief had taken the form of 10 liras.

In the two remaining villages no recent relief had been afforded, but as regards these, one of the villages, inhabited partly by gipsies, appeared only to require clothing.

Excepting in that village, the refugees whom Mr. Simmons visited had no other food but that of which I transmit herewith to your Lordship a sample.

It consists of weeds mixed with a little coarse flour, whenever the latter is obtainable by the sale of land at a nominal price.

Your Lordship will see from the despatch above quoted that the agent of the Relief Committee had previously found the same villagers subsisting on mud, acorns, and empty ears of maize.

As regards the mortality from starvation which the same agent had reported (viz., eighty-five deaths during one month), and the existence of which Mr. Mateoff had denied through Reuter's agency, your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Simmons counted more than 40 fresh graves in the same village, and found about 30 sick, out of a population of 850.

The nature of the food on which the refugees have so long been endeavouring to subsist, fully accounts for that mortality.

I have arranged for the immediate supply of 13,000 okes of flour (about 6 okes or 15 lbs. per head) among the five villages visited by Mr. Simmons, and the Central Committee is on the point of directing the attention of the Governor-General to the absolute necessity of affording further relief.

Her Majesty's Ambassador has also sent four bales of clothing, which will be immediately distributed among the same sufferers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Memorandum.

THE Central Committee for the relief of the refugees of Eastern Roumelia having charged Mr. T. Michell with the distribution of 200*l.* which had been supplied by Sir A. H. Layard for the relief of the village of Egriler and other Mussulman villages in its vicinity, I left Philippopoli early on Sunday morning, the 7th instant, for the purpose of inquiring into the extent of the misery prevalent among the Turkish refugees in the Conouch district.

After a ride of five hours through a rich and fertile country, I reached Egriler, situated at a distance of about 30 miles from Philippopoli, and consisting of 230 coulibas, or species of wigwams. These give shelter to 850 inhabitants, more than half being women and children.

On entering the village I was welcomed by the Imam (priest), who took me round

to all the huts, which I found mostly bare, with the exception of a few mats, blankets, and sheepskins, which I recognized as having been given to the villagers about a month ago by our Refugee Committee.

The inhabitants had but little clothing except what the Committee had been able to give to them. In fact a large number of the women and children were still half naked.

One or two huts enjoyed the luxury of a small carpet.

There were more than thirty sick, one of whom had died that morning and was buried in my presence. There can be no question as to the cause of the numerous deaths that occur at Egriler, for the only food of its inhabitants consists of the weeds which the women and children go out to gather, mixed with a small quantity of flour, whenever it can be obtained by the sale of fields at very low prices. The mixture is made into cakes and baked on embers. I witnessed this operation with my own eyes, and wondered how any human being could keep body and soul together on such food.

I then visited the cemetery and counted over forty newly-covered graves. I was informed that about two months ago the authorities of Hadji Elles had sent to the village 700 okes (about 1,700 lbs.) of maize, which comes to less than one oke for every inhabitant. They had, moreover, received from the same authorities 6,400 piastres, or about 45 liras, about a fortnight ago. The Government had supplied them likewise with a certain quantity of seed which they had sowed; but they complained bitterly of the inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Pranga, not far from Egriler, who sent their sheep to graze on their young corn under pretext that the fields were common pasturage lands which the Turks had no right to cultivate. The Turks denied this, and stated that the fields had always belonged to them and that they possessed the title-deeds.

As I was preparing to leave, the Moukhtar (head man) of the village returned from Pranga, where he had been to protest against the conduct of their Bulgarian neighbours. The Moukhtar being accompanied by two Bulgars, I questioned the latter as to the truth of the complaint made by the Turks. They did not deny it, but argued that the inhabitants of Egriler had no right to cultivate fields belonging to the two villages in common and which had been used for pasturage from time immemorial. As I rode out of the village, I passed by the fields in question, and saw that, in order to distinguish the part on which the Bulgarians grazed their sheep from the rest of the ploughed fields in that locality, the Bulgars had drawn a boundary line marked by mounds at certain distances from each other.

From Egriler I went to the Mussulman village of Gueukdjeler, 3 miles north of the former village, and containing 72 coulibas and 322 inhabitants. I remarked there also, like in most of the other Turkish villages through which I passed, the clothes and coverlets that had been given to them by the Refugee Committee.

Their principal food was also weeds mixed with flour whenever they can procure any.

The Government had distributed, more than two weeks ago, about 3 lbs. of maize to each inhabitant of this village; but this supply did not last more than a few days.

I next visited two villages named Dérékeuï, separated by a stream of the same name, and about 5 miles distant from the last village.

Before the new form of Government was established one of these villages had been comprised in the department of Philippopoli and the other in that of Haskeuï; at present both are included in the latter department, but they are nevertheless considered as two distinct villages, although they are in reality only two halves of the same hamlet.

They contain together about 180 hovels or coulibas and over 650 inhabitants, living, like their Moslem neighbours, on weeds and a little flour.

A month or two ago they had received from the Government a quantity of maize in proportion to that supplied to that of the other Turkish villages I traversed; and a few days after, the sum of 10 liras was distributed among the villagers.

They complained to me that their women and children dared not venture out of these villages, as they were molested by the Bulgarian shepherds.

I left Dérékeuï for the village of Conouch, about 8 miles distant from the latter villages; but darkness coming on, I was compelled to pass the night at the large Bulgarian village of Cozbounar, half-way between Conouch and Dérékeuï. This village is composed of 320 houses, among which is conspicuous the Bulgarian school.

I put up at the khan or inn, and gave orders for my dinner, as I had not eaten a morsel since the morning, out of consideration for the half-starved wretches among whom I had spent the day, and among whom I was in reality ashamed to eat.

A short time after my arrival a number of Bulgars came to my room to greet me; among them was the Tchorbadji or Mayor of the village, who questioned my gendarme as to who I was and what was the object of my visit.

The khan being kept by a Greek, I was surprised to see it frequented by Bulgarians,

and I concluded that the famous Circular had not found its way thither. I was, however, mistaken, for as I was preparing to go to sleep, the innkeeper informed me that a Greek had something to say, and requested me to receive him. The Greek entered and began to complain that for nearly a month past he, as well as his fellow-shopkeepers, were being ruined; not a single Bulgar entered their shops since the day on which the schoolmaster had read in the Bulgarian church, in the name of the Exarch, a printed letter to the effect that no Bulgarian must sell to, or buy from, any Greek, under pain of excommunication. I asked how it was that the innkeeper, who was likewise a Greek, did not seem to share the alleged ill-treatment of his co-religionists, for I had noticed several Bulgarians enter the inn.

The man explained to me, however, that for twelve days after the Circular had been read only three or four Bulgars had ventured to enter his establishment, but even these were at last arrested by two gendarmes and conducted to the school, where they were fined a silver rouble each.

He added that, having a great number of friends among the Bulgarians of that village, a petition had been drawn up by them, soliciting in his favour a dispensation, which was ultimately granted.

I was also informed that about an hour before my arrival there a Greek apple seller who had come from Stanimaka had been forced to quit the village because he did not possess the "permit" which any one going to a Bulgarian village is now bound to produce. I gathered that the "permit" alluded to was that of the so-called Secret Society, not a license supplied by the Government.

A Greek fisherman from the same town, who had arrived at the same time as myself, would also have been served in the same manner but for an influential Bulgarian relative, who took him to his house.

Early next day I started for Conouch, a village containing Turks and Bulgars. The Moslem quarter was distinguishable from the other, on account of its being composed of coulibas like all the other Turkish villages I had visited.

The Bulgarian villages possess houses, for in this part of the province they had not suffered like the Turkish villages, which had been completely razed to the ground.

The Mussulman and gipsy inhabitants of Conouch number about 330 souls. Although their condition is not an enviable one, yet they apparently fared better than the other Mussulman villagers whom I had visited. They appeared to be on good terms with the Bulgars of the village, whose Tchorbadji had been elected by the Mussulmans as well as by the Bulgarians. But like all the other Mussulman villagers they are also in want of clothing.

The Tchorbadji spoke to me of the Circular that had been read in his village. "We buy," he said, "our provisions for the most part at Stanimaka, and now find great difficulty in providing ourselves, owing to our having been forbidden to apply to Greeks. When we venture to enter a Greek shop there are men who turn us out."

He did not know the origin of the Circular, nor why the Bulgarians should avoid the Greeks, who had done nothing to them; but "fearing excommunication, the Bulgarians," he said, "were forced to obey."

I left Conouch for Izbeyli, 3 miles from the former village, in the direction of Stanimaka. I there found twenty huts inhabited by about eighty Mussulmans. They are not in want of clothing, having, they said, been amply provided by the Refugee Committee.

In other respects, they are really to be pitied. They feed upon weeds mixed with flour, when they can get any.

The Government had supplied them two months before with a small quantity of maize, besides 100 kilés of corn which they sowed.

This being the last of the villages I had to visit, I rode back to Philippopoli, where I arrived last night, deeply impressed with the state of extreme misery which I had witnessed among the inhabitants of the Mussulman villages in the district of Conouch.

Philippopoli, March 9, 1880.

(Signed) A. SIMMONS.

No. 299.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 131. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a letter which the Director of Finance has this day addressed to the Governor-General, reserving his responsibility in the matter of a Privy Council which was held yesterday without his participation, in violation of Article 37 of the Organic Statute.

M. Schmidt has been compelled to take this course, because since his altercation with the Governor-General on the 2nd instant he has received no notice of Council Meetings, and has been treated as if he had already resigned his functions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 299.

M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{21 \text{ Février}}{12 \text{ Mars}}$, 1880.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI appris que les Administrateurs-Généraux ont été convoqués en Conseil Privé avant-hier, Mercredi.

N'ayant pas reçu d'invitation pour ce Conseil je prie votre Excellence de bien vouloir me faire savoir à quoi je dois attribuer cette omission.

Je prends la liberté d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur l'Article 37 du Statut Organique qui dit que le Conseil Privé est formé par les six Administrateurs-Généraux ; les délibérations de la réunion de Mercredi, formée par quelques Directeurs, ne pourront donc pas être considérés comme légalement prises en Conseil Privé, et je fais expressément mes réserves pour toute responsabilité qui pourrait m'incomber.

Je prie, &c.

(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 300.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 132.)

Philippopoli, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations of five petitions from Mussulman refugees complaining of ill-treatment at the hands of Bulgarians.

They were omitted by mistake from my despatch No. 121 of the 7th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 300.

Petition from Oustina.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Oustina, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Des récoltes que nous avions abandonnées lors de notre émigration la moitié en ont été laissées aux villageois de Péroustissa.

Pour réclamer notre droit nous avons adressés des plaintes à la Commission des Réfugiés ainsi qu'au Gouverneur-Général, qui nous ont donné la liste des récoltes qui nous sont dues. Le Préfet d'ici a confié l'affaire au Bailli, qui a donné les ordres nécessaires aux villageois de Péroustissa, mais ces derniers n'ont pas écouté ces ordres.

Dernièrement les villageois de Péroustissa ont donné une quantité très-insignifiante de récoltes à quelques-uns ; mais la plupart n'ont absolument rien reçu.

Nos villageois Musulmans se trouvant au désespoir, ils ont vendu à des bas prix leurs champs pour ne pas mourir de faim.

Il y avait aussi cinq familles qui n'avaient pas de champs. Elles ont vendu leurs maisons pour pouvoir trouver de quoi vivre.

Il est bien clair que si les villageois de Péroustissa ne nous donnent pas nos récoltes, nous serons tous obligés de vendre toutes nos propriétés et quitter notre village.

Veuillez, M. le Consul-Général, prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos, et nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues, et à quelques-uns qui n'ont rien à recevoir, de leur fournir un peu de ration pour ne pas les laisser mourir de faim.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants des villageois Musulmans,

(Signé) HASSAN TCHAVOUCHE.
ARNAOUT NASSOUH.

Philippopoli, le 5 Février (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 300.

Petition from Ada-Keui.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Ada-Keui, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Le nommé Mehemed Oglou Rachid Mouhtar était venu à Philippopoli pour faire des achats de vivres pour les pauvres villageois. Pendant son absence, un de ses compatriotes Bulgares, le nommé Rakal Vassil, accompagné de ses complices, forcèrent à minuit la porte de sa maison et firent scandales à sa famille et à ses enfants, voulant même faire autre chose à sa femme. Cependant leurs cris de secours n'ont pas permis à ces mauvais sujets d'aller plus loin. Un de nos compatriotes Bulgares, le nommé Gat. Oglou Youvan, a tiré quelques coups de fusil sur Chérif Oglou Rechid sans l'atteindre. Trois jours après le même, Youvan est entré dans la maison de Chérif Oglou et a lié le cou de la femme de Chérif pour l'étrangler, en même temps qu'il la battait. Mais au cris de secours poussés par cette malheureuse, il a pris la fuite sans pouvoir mettre à l'œuvre ses intentions meurtrières.

Ces sortes d'actes arrivent journellement. Il est impossible aux villageois Mussulmans de continuer cette existence.

Nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures nécessaires, et faire punir sévèrement ces gens-là, pour qu'on nous laisse tranquilles.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 4 cachets des villageois Musulmans.)

Philippopoli, le 25 Janvier (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 300.

Petition from Temreche.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Temreche, district de Roubdjous (Rhodope), relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Lorsque nos villageois se rendent à Philippopoli chemin faisant du côté de Doyirman-Déré, des mauvais sujets viennent au devant d'eux et les battent et maltraitent. Nos villageois de peur ne peuvent plus venir au bazar pour faire leurs achats. Si cela continue ainsi personne ne pourra quitter son village, mais restera renfermé dans sa maison, de peur d'être assommé par ces gens s'il s'aventurait dehors. De cette manière il est clair que nous serons tous perdus.

Au nom de l'humanité nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, de faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos afin de faire cesser les agissements de la part de ces mauvais sujets, enfin que nos villageois circulent tranquillement sans être attaqués, et puissent venir faire leurs achats au bazar.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Représentant de villageois Musulmans de Temreche,

(Signé) AALI.

Philippopoli, le 25 Janvier (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 300.

Petition from Kezanlek.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants de Kezanlek, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

1. Tous nos villageois se trouvent dans un état déplorable, à cause du manque de nourriture et de vêtements. Ils vont mendier dans les rues pour trouver de quoi vivre.

2. Durant l'occupation Russe nous avions laissé nos récoltes et pris la fuite, maintenant il nous est impossible de les reprendre.

3. Les roses, noix, pommes, prunes, et prairies qui ont été vendus par l'entremise des autorités, nous vous prions de nous faire en avoir le produit.

4. Nos compatriotes Bulgares, qui ont ensemencé nos champs, nous donnaient 1½ chenik par deunum (100 mètres). Mais maintenant ils ne nous donnent rien.

5. Tous nos villageois Musulmans qui sont rentrés restent sans travail, à cause du manque d'instruments aratoires. Nous vous prions de vouloir bien nous faire donner le nécessaire pour pouvoir ensemencer nos champs, vu l'approche de la saison.

6. Une partie des champs, cultivés par nos compatriotes Bulgares, reste sans être ensemencé; nous avons prié les autorités de cultiver ces champs. Cependant aucune suite n'a été donnée à notre demande.

7. Nos maisons et jardins ont été détruits, et les Bulgares ont construit avec le matériel des maisons pour eux-mêmes. Si l'autorité trouve cela convenable, nous n'avons rien a dire.

En attendant votre juste décision, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants Musulmans de Kezanlek,

(Signé) HASSAN TCHAVOUCHE.
MEHMED.
MOUSTAFA TCHAVOUCHE BIN HASSAN.

Philippopoli, le 29 Janvier (v. s.), 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 300.

Petition from Salihler.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant du village de Salihler, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaisance ce qui suit :—

Vendredi passé je suis parti de Philippopoli pour me rendre à mon village. Chemin faisant entre le village Roumlar et Mourtatle, trois Bulgares m'ont attrapé, et ont pris de moi 90 piastres que je possédais, et puis ils sont partis, se dirigeant vers le village de Roumlar.

Il y a un mois quelques personnes ont arrêté au même endroit des Musulmans, et après les avoir bien battus ils ont enlevé leur argent.

Comme ces personnes sont connus des villageois de Roumlar, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien les faire chercher, et les faire punir sévèrement.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) MOLLA MOUSTAPHA.

Le 30 Janvier (v. s.), 1880.

No. 301.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 26.*)

(No. 134. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, March 12, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of this date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Report made to General Strecker, on the 3rd instant, by the Prefect of Hasskeuï, on the events that preceded the recent disturbance in the district of Kirdjali.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 301.

The Préfet of Hasskeuï to General Strecker.

Hasskeuï, le 20 Février / 3 Mars, 1880.

CONFORMÉMENT aux ordres de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre un résumé des troubles qui se sont produits successivement dans le Canton de Kyrdjali; et qui ont eu toujours comme point de départ les villages insoumis situés au nord-est du département de Hasskeuï, entre les Cantons de Kyrdjali, Hermanli et Hasskeuï.

Le 30 Octobre, 1879, un mois environ après l'examen du Canton de Kyrdjali, au département de Hasskeuï, qui m'a été confié, le Bailli du dit Canton m'a informé, par son Rapport, que des villageois Turcs habitant des villages situés sur la frontière du Canton de Tchernuu, s'étant armés au nombre de mille environ, s'étaient dirigés vers le chef-lieu du susdit canton.

Le Bailli, instruit de ce mouvement séditieux, envoya à leur rencontre deux Notables pour demander le but de leur démonstration.

Ils répondirent qu'ils veulent :—

1. L'exclusion du service des fonctionnaires Turcs, qui sont la cause de l'annexion de leurs villages à la Province de la Roumélie Orientale, et de tous ceux qui ne sont pas originaires du Canton de Kyrdjali.

2. La réorganisation complète du détachement de section de Kyrdjali, qui doit être composée exclusivement par des Musulmans, dont la majorité prédomine sur les autres éléments.

En complément du susdit Rapport concernant ces troubles, le Bailli de Kyrdjali m'annonce, par son Rapport en date du 24 Octobre, 1879, que les insurgés étaient arrivés au village Dourhalar situé à une portée de fusil de Kyrdjali, et y étaient restés deux jours et deux nuits. De là ils se rendirent aux village de Kara-Basli, où ils tinrent une assemblée, dont les chefs fauteurs des troubles décidèrent de distribuer aux insurgés les céréales provenant des dîmes. Ci-joint, j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter une copie de ce Rapport, et une autre du Rapport en date du 5 Novembre, 1879, dans lequel il s'agit de l'intenton formé par les Turcs de fonder un Gouvernement à part, et indépendant, sous le nom de Babaïtes ("intrépides") de Kyrdjali.

Le 19 Novembre, 1879, le Bailli du dit Canton m'a envoyé un Rappport privé accompagné d'une correspondance de Molla Dourhan, qui s'était réfugié à Andrinople, et adressé à Déli Ibrahim. La copie de cette correspondance est ci-incluse.

Le 20 du même mois j'ai reçu des renseignements que les insurgés, sous le commandement de Molla Dourhan, s'assemblèrent dans le village d'Achikilar; de là ils se rendirent à Kyrdjali au nombre de 500 personnes armées et enlevèrent par force la Caisse du Gouvernement.

Les gendarmes, en très-petit nombre, qui se trouvaient alors là, ne pouvaient opposer aucune résistance à leur attaque, et furent obligés de céder à leur exigences. Les insurgés, en élargissant tous les détenus, proposèrent aux fonctionnaires qui ne sont pas indigènes de se démettre de leurs fonctions, et ils ordonnèrent aux autres de transférer le Gouvernement dans le village de Karalar, où ils s'installèrent.

Après que le Gouvernement fut transféré dans le village de Karalar, la tranquillité se rétablit dans le Canton, et un mois environ après la résidence du Bailli fut de nouveau fixé à Kyrdjali.

J'ai toujours employé tous les moyens pacifiques et bienveillants envers les villages insoumés situés entre les Cantons de Hasskeuï, Kyrdjali, Hermanli. Cependant, le 6 du mois courant j'ai reçu un Rapport du Bailli du Canton de Kyrdjali, par lequel il me communique que ces villages étaient de nouveau soulevés. Déli Ibrahim, habitant du village Babalar, et Tabak-Oglou Suleïman, habitant du village de Pacha-keuï, attaquèrent, à la tête de dix insurgés, le village de Hodja-keuï, où ils désarmèrent tous les gendarmes qui s'y trouvaient. Ci-joint la copie du Rapport en question, et de celui du 12 Février, 1880.

A cet effet, j'ai envoyé le Commandant de la Gendarmerie du département de Hasskeuï sur les lieux des troubles; il m'annonce, en date du 15 Février, 1880, par son Rapport, qu'il est parvenu à se faufiler jusqu'au village des insurgés, et a obtenu des renseignements détaillés sur leur mouvement et le but de leur révolte. D'après le dire de quelques-uns les insurgés auraient pour but d'attaquer les villages Bulgares, et après les avoir pillés, de se porter directement sur la ville de Hasskeuï. D'après les autres, ils se proposeraient d'exciter à la révolte la population tranquille des autres villages; et si leur plan avortait ils auraient recours en pareils cas aux villages qui restent en dehors de la

Roumélie Orientale, pour leur réclamer des secours avec lequel ils élargiraient le cercle insurrectionnel pour se joindre aux insurgés de l'Albanie.

Tel est, M. le Général, l'exposé en résumé des faits hostiles du Canton de Kyrdjali envers les autorités de la Roumélie Orientale. Je puis déclarer fermement que jamais les habitants du dit Canton n'ont été opprimés; jamais il ne leur a été fourni une cause qui contribuait à leur insurrection; au contraire, tout ce qu'ils ont réclamé jusqu'à présent du Gouvernement Central leur a été sans peine et sur l'heure accordé.

Une Proclamation leur a été adressée, par laquelle je leur rappelais la bienveillance du Gouvernement Rouméliote, qui leur a délivré les différents produits des dîmes, au prix de 15 piastres en or le kilé, lorsqu'ils ont été vendus sans exception aux villageois de tous les autres cantons de la province à raison de 22 piastres le kilé. La perception des dîmes et du beylik s'effectuent d'après les cahiers qu'ils présentaient eux-mêmes au Gouvernement sans aucune espèce du contrôle. Tout le personnel des fonctionnaires composé exclusivement par des Musulmans a été nommé sur leur proposition. En outre, un crédit de £ T. 300 leur a été cédé pour subvenir aux besoins nécessaires des pauvres.

Cependant, tous ces bienfaits de la part du Gouvernement de la Roumélie Orientale n'ont pas empêché les villages insoumis de se révolter de nouveau, et de mettre en confusion le Canton de Kyrdjali.

(Signé) Le Préfet du Département de Hasskeui.

No. 302.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 26.*)

(No. 135.) *Philippopoli, March* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a French translation of the Pastoral Letter which the Greek Metropolitan of Philippopoli has just addressed to the Orthodox communities of his diocese.

After enumerating the many evil consequences of the Circular recently launched against the Greek inhabitants of this province, the Metropolitan exhorts his flock to act in conformity with the precepts of Christianity, by returning good for evil, and by loving those who hate them.

At the same time, His Eminence encourages his co-religionists to believe that the Government will proceed with the utmost rigour of the law against those who may continue to be guilty of perverting an entire people by such means as have hitherto been employed "by a few madmen and perverse spirits."

I regret to say that I have not the same faith in the sincere and energetic action of the local Government, more especially since the Bulgarian Metropolitan, while denying his own participation in the issuing of the Circular in question, has not yet seen fit to address to the members of the Bulgarian Church a Pastoral Letter exhorting them to pay no attention to the instructions which they have received from the local Gymnastic Society, and assuring them that the penalty of excommunication is not attached to the treatment of Greeks as fellow-Christians and fellow-subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 302.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of March 13, 1880.

SA Grandeur le Métropolitain de Philippopoli, Mgr. Néophytos, vient d'adresser la lettre pastorale suivante aux communautés Orthodoxes de son diocèse:—

Très-vénérables Curés, honorables Notables, et tous autres Chrétiens de cette province Orthodoxe, très-chers frères en Jésus Christ, que la grâce Divine et notre bénédiction soient avec vous.

Beaucoup de Chrétiens sont venus à cette sainte Métropole se plaindre et exposer avec une douleur de cœur très-vive qu'une Circulaire partant de cette ville a été envoyée aux villages pour inviter les habitants Bulgares de rompre toute relation et de cesser toute transaction avec eux, et de les considérer dans l'avenir comme des ennemis dignes d'encourir leur haine, et que par suite de cette Circulaire, un grand nombre de leurs frères

ont été forcés de quitter ces villages sans que les habitants Bulgares leur eussent donné le temps de régler les comptes qu'ils avaient avec eux. Parmi ces Chrétiens il y en a qui ont été maltraités et d'autres menacés de l'être. Une des conséquences de ces mauvais procédés a été leur éloignement des villages et la nécessité dans laquelle ils se sont trouvés d'abandonner leurs magasins et leurs biens sans pouvoir rien prendre. Ce triste état de choses étant ainsi arrivé à notre connaissance, nous avons hâte et nous croyons de notre devoir de vous informer que notre Gouvernement, tout en les désapprouvant, condamne ces quelques insensés et âmes perverses, qui cherchent par de pareils moyens à exciter contre les Grecs le peuple Bulgare, qui sans être méchant, se fait l'instrument de ceux qui trouvent leur intérêt à servir de sa bonne foi pour allumer les passions et la persécution religieuse parmi les peuples.

Cependant, nous vous exhortons en nous conformant en cela aux préceptes de notre sainte religion, qui nous enseigne de pratiquer le bien, et d'aimer ceux qui nous haïssent, de ne pas faire attention à ces actes, qui ne peuvent vous faire du tort en aucune façon. Nous vous prévenons en outre que notre Gouvernement ne veut point qu'on se serve de pareils moyens pour pervertir tout un peuple, mais qu'il sévira au contraire avec toute la rigueur de la loi contre les coupables. Nous vous conseillons aussi de montrer de l'amitié pour tous ceux avec qui vous êtes en contact, de les entourer de votre amour et estime, ainsi que vous l'avez fait jusqu'à présent, et de travailler à gagner votre pain à la sueur de votre front. Ayez toujours présent à l'esprit, dans tout ce que vous faites, le principe évangélique, qui nous ordonne de faire le bien et de ne pas rendre le mal pour le mal.

C'est en agissant ainsi que vous vous attirerez l'estime de tous et aurez la bénédiction Divine. Nous avons cru vous donner ces conseils et vous engager, ainsi que nous l'avons dit, de ne pas faire attention à ces écrits et aux instructions qu'ils contiennent, étant sûr que le Gouvernement ne manquera pas de vous faire justice et de punir de la manière la plus sévère ceux qui en sont les auteurs.

Nous vous conseillons aussi d'être fermes et ébranlables dans la foi de vos pères et d'observer strictement les préceptes de notre sainte religion; bref, de vivre dans la crainte de Dieu, dont la sainte garde et notre bénédiction vous soient en aide. Ainsi soit-il.

Votre frère en Jésus Christ,

(Signé) NÉOPHYTOS, *Evêque de Philippopoli.*

No. 303.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 136.) *Philippopoli, March* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis" relating to the treatment of Greeks in this province in consequence of the recent Circular.

I beg also to forward copies of the statements made to me in writing by the two Greeks whose ill-treatment near Panagourishte (Otlouken) I reported to your Lordship by telegraph on the 11th instant.

When the sufferers attempted to present at the konak a petition exposing their grievances they were insulted and driven away "like dogs," after waiting two hours for the arrival of the Prefect.

The second petition which they carried to the konak under the escort of my cavass had a more favourable result, for it was received by the Aide-de-camp on duty, and shortly after the Governor-General sent for the men, and after questioning them gave them the assurance that he would at once order the strictest inquiry to be made into their case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 303.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of March 10, 1880.

CHRISTODOULO ZIRI et Janni Dunou, tous deux Grecs, originaires de Sténimaka, se rendirent dernièrement aux villages Pragras et Kosmoum pour y vendre de l'eau de vie et du vin. Les habitants, qui sont tous Bulgares, les forcèrent de revenir sur leurs pas,

pour la raison bien simple qu'ils étaient des Grecs. A leur retour ils traversèrent le village Karaulard où ils voulaient passer la nuit, le temps leur ayant manqué de gagner leurs foyers. Les habitants de Karaulard, qui sont également Bulgares, leur refusèrent non-seulement l'hospitalité, mais ils leur signifièrent aussi que s'ils ne quittaient pas le village à l'instant même, ils courient le risque d'y laisser leur peau. Un Bulgare de leur connaissance, leur dit que pour vendre leurs marchandises dans les villages Bulgares, ils devaient faire partie du Club Bulgare "le Rhodope" de Sténimaka, qui est, paraît-il, une espèce de succursale du Comité Central de Philippopoli.

Théodore Zinko et Panayou Krutas, tous les deux Grecs de Sténimaka, portant du vin au village Kojani, ont été empêchés par les Bulgares Athanase Tcharchamba, Rajo Keskiu, et Georges Boutan, de pénétrer dans le susdit village. "C'est défendu," leur dirent-ils, "à des Grecs excommuniés de fouler le sol Bulgare." Cependant, Théodore et Krilas continuèrent leur chemin, sans plus s'occuper des débits des raisonneurs Bulgares. Mais arrivés dans le village, ils furent attaqués par ces mêmes Bulgares, qui eurent cette fois-ci la précaution de s'armer de gourdins. Dans la mêlée qui s'en suivit ils leur enlevèrent les permis de douane dont ils étaient munis, et leur intimèrent l'ordre de ne plus reconnaître autre autorité que celle du Club Bulgare de Sténimaka portant le nom de "Rhodope." Les Grecs revinrent chez eux dans un bien mauvais état. La police à qui ils s'adressèrent, leur fit justice dans ce sens qu'elle condamna les agresseurs à rembourser la somme payée pour l'obtention du permis de vente de boissons.

Stefano Raito, Grec de Sténimaka, avait acheté argent comptant du fourrage chez un Bulgare du village Konous. Il y alla un de ces jours derniers pour y prendre sa marchandise. A son entrée dans le village, les Tchorbadjis se réunirent en Conseil extraordinaire dans un cabaret. Ils y firent venir le marchand de fourrage, pour lui dire qu'il serait condamné à une amende de 4 roubles s'il donnait suite aux engagements qu'il avait pris avec le Grec. Mais comme rien de cela n'eut lieu, le Conseil des Tchorbadjis se contenta, vu la circonstance qu'il y avait intention de contracter avec un Grec, de condamner le Bulgare à payer une demi-oque d'eau de vie. Après quoi, le Conseil fit comparaître Stefano Raito de vider immédiatement les lieux, et de n'y plus remettre le pied sans autorisation spéciale portant qu'il s'est fait Bulgare et qu'il n'a plus rien à faire avec les Grecs.

Yanko Parego se rendit dernièrement au village Cararéizobo pour y vendre du vin. Les habitants Bulgares l'obligèrent à rebrousser chemin. Arrivé à Sténimaka, il rapporta l'affaire au Préfet, qui lui délivra aussitôt un papier, invitant les villageois à ne pas molester le marchand ambulant, mais à le laisser libre de s'occuper de son petit commerce. Malgré cela, Parego n'osa pas courir le risque d'aller encore une fois au village Cararéizobo.

Stefan Zapraïdis, épicier, dépêcha son garçon à Cararéizobo pour y chercher un cochon de lait, qu'il avait acheté chez un Bulgare de ce village. La femme du porcher était sur le point de céder l'animal au domestique du bakal, lorsque quelques-uns des Tchorbadjis intervinrent et empêchèrent la vendeuse de livrer sa marchandise au Grec.

De pareilles mésaventures arrivèrent à presque tous les Grecs de Sténimaka et de Vadina, qui étaient allés dans les villages Bulgares vendre du vin, du vinaigre, et autres marchandises. Tous revinrent sur leurs pas et allèrent protester l'un après l'autre aux autorités communières pour ne les avoir pas munis de permis reconnus par les paysans Bulgares.

Inclosure 2 in No. 303.

Extract from the "Philippopolis" of March 13, 1880.

ZiNGO nous raconte le fait suivant, qui n'a rien perdu de son actualité, bien qu'il y ait déjà un certain temps qu'il a eu lieu.

Son père Apostol, âgé de 70 ans environ, est établi depuis longue date à Sissanli, village Bulgare, où il tient une épicerie. Dernièrement des soldats vinrent visiter la boutique du vieillard en compagnie de quelques villageois, et sans autres préambules ils lui dirent de les suivre dans une bergerie sise hors du village. Arrivés-là, nos soldats invitèrent Apostol d'acheter un mouton. Celui-ci, qui savait ce qui l'attendait en cas de refus, s'exécuta avec grâce; il paya 80 piastres pour l'achat de la bête. Mais ce n'est pas tout.

Une fois le mouton acheté et l'argent payé, les soldats chargèrent la bête sur le dos d'Apostol et revinrent à Sissanli, où ils avaient projeté de se payer un festin, en l'accompagnant du raffinement de la cruauté suivante.

Ils dépècent le mouton, le passent à une broche et chargent Apostol de le cuisiner; ils obligent ensuite le pauvre vieillard de leur verser à boire pendant tout le temps du repas, se tenant sur un pied, tandis qu'eux buvaient, mangeaient, chantaient, et riaient à ses dépens.

Apostol porta plainte, mais la seule satisfaction qu'il reçut des autorités c'est le remboursement des 80 piastres qu'il avait payées pour le mouton.

Inclosure 3 in No. 303.

Second Petition from Dinko Athanase, Koumbatti, and Nicolas Dinko Athanase.

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

CES humblement Soussignés, Dinko Athanse Koumbatti, et Nicolas Dinko Athanase, habitants de Sténimaka, et sujets Rouméliotes, ayant eu l'honneur de remettre par l'officier en service, une pétition à votre Excellence concernant l'incident de Paniyiourista du $\frac{\text{24 Février}}{\text{7 Mars}}$ (voir la première pétition), nous avons reçu, après réception de la susdite pétition, l'ordre de la part d'un certain monsieur apparemment appartenant au service de votre Excellence, d'attendre hors du conak jusqu'à l'arrivée de M. le Préfet de Philipoppoli.

Ayant attendu plus de deux heures, et voyant enfin M. le Préfet arriver, nous nous sommes adressés de nouveau au susdit monsieur, en demandant une réponse à notre pétition.

Mais cette fois-ci on nous a répondu par des insultes les plus grossières, en nous disant que nous n'avions plus rien à faire là-bas, et il nous chassa comme des chiens.

Nous nous hasardons maintenant de demander par la présente à votre Excellence si dans le cas que, ne pouvant plus sortir de notre ville pour nos affaires, nous sommes impitoyablément maltraité par les Bulgares, venant ici déposer nos plaintes et obtenir une justice [*sic*].

Espérant qu'une suite meilleure à celle de notre première pétition sera donnée à notre présente et que votre Excellence, dans la justice et l'impartialité qui la caractérisent, ne permettra jamais de nous laisser partir sans que justice nous soit donnée, nous sommes, &c.

(Signé comme en haut,)

Philippopoli, le $\frac{\text{24 Février}}{\text{11 Mars}}$, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 303.

Statement (No. 2) respecting the Incident of Panayiourista (Ollouh-keui.)

DIMANCHE, le $\frac{\text{24 Février}}{\text{7 Mars}}$, à 6 heures du soir, les nommés Dinkos Athanasse, Koumbati, et Nicolas Dinkou Athanasse, habitants de Sténimaka, quartier d'Ambélinour, et sujets Roumélioles, de retour du village de Zlatitza (Bulgarie) où ils se sont rendus pour vendre leur marchandise, ont été rencontrés du côté de Métzika (Roumélie Orientale) entre les villages de Paniyiourista et Bania, de quatre Bulgares, armés de Martiny, et de sabres, qui leur ont demandé de l'argent, en les menaçant de leurs fusils. Sur la réponse négative des Sténimakiotes, qu'ils n'avaient pas d'argent, et qu'ils étaient de simples domestiques, retournant à leurs villages, les quatre Bulgares ont fait feu immédiatement sur les Sténimakiotes. Mais comme leurs fusils n'étaient chargés que de poudre seulement, les deux Sténimakiotes ont été quittes pour quelques blessures très-légères, mais dont ils portent encore les traces.

Non contents de cela, les Bulgares voyant qu'ils n'ont pu rien obtenir par cette menace, ils sont tombés de nouveau sur les Sténimakiotes, et ayant parvenu à attacher fortement l'un d'eux, le nommé Nicolas Dinkou Athanasse, se sont mis alors à les rosser impitoyablement avec la crosse de leur fusils, en leurs disant: "Vous êtes des Grecs, et comme excommuniés, vous méritez bien cela," tâchant de cette manière les forcer à se rendre.

Et en effet, les malheureux Sténimakiotes ne pouvant plus se défendre, ni résister aux douleurs atroces que leurs faisaient sentir par tout le corps, les ont laissé faire, en demandant pitié d'eux. Mais les Bulgares abusant alors de leur supériorité, ont fouillé les deux Sténimakiotes et leurs ont pris, à part les 100 piastres qu'ils avaient sur eux—produit de la vente de leur marchandise—tout ce qu'ils avaient aussi avec eux pour

le chemin, c'est-à-dire : deux couvertures en laine pour les mulets, une paire de souliers, une bride des mulets, un sac de voyage ("hiybé"), et quelques autres choses bien nécessaires pour le voyage.

Cependant, l'un de ces deux Sténimakiotes, le nommé Nicolas Dimkou Athanasse, a été tellement battu par les Bulgares, qu'il a le dos tout-à-fait meurtri et plein de blessures, comme d'ailleurs pourra le prouver l'attestat que M. le Dr. Vlades leur a délivré, après avoir bien visité le corps de tous les deux.

Les agresseurs, quoique travestis, et ayant le visage totalement couvert, pour ne pas se faire connaître de leurs victimes, cependant les Sténimakiotes ont tout lieu à supposer que ce sont les mêmes individus qui l'année passée ont gravement attaqué et maltraité dans le même endroit le frère de l'un de ces deux Sténimakiotes, le nommé George Koumbatis, pour la seule raison qu'il était Grec, et lui ont enlevé une somme de 750 piastres, trouvée sur lui.

Délaissés dans l'état pitoyable ci-dessus cité, attachés et liés par les Bulgares, les deux Sténimakiotes se sont parvenus à se traîner jusqu'à la maison du Baïli de Paniyourista, où ils ont porté plainte contre leurs agresseurs; mais sachant que cette démarche sera infructueuse, ils sont venus avant de se rendre à Sténimaka donner une pétition au Gouverneur-Général, afin de pouvoir être indemnisés de toutes les pertes qu'ils ont subi.

No. 304.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 137. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, March 14, 1880.

My Lord,

MGR. PANARETOS, the Bulgarian Metropolitan, having, in a letter addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, and in a telegram which he sent to the Constantinople journals, denied his participation in the issuing of the Circular which has caused the Bulgarian population throughout the province to believe that any dealings with Greeks will be followed by excommunication, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a Declaration which has been given to me in writing by a respectable Bulgarian inhabitant of Philippopoli.

He affirms that the priest, Stoïko, mentioned in one of my previous despatches on the same subject, told him that he had been sent to certain neighbouring villages for the purpose of reading a Proclamation signed by the Metropolitan, and threatening with excommunication any Bulgarian who might in future deal with Greeks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Declaration as to Bulgarian Metropolitan's Proclamation.

(Translation.)

I, THE Undersigned, hereby certify that during a conversation which I had, on the 28th January (o. s.), 1880, with the priest, Stoïko, the latter told me that, by order of the Metropolitan, Panaretos, he went to the villages in the districts of Gueubson and Coyoun-Tépé, where he read in the churches a Proclamation, threatening excommunication, signed by the Metropolitan, and to the effect that no Bulgarian should buy anything from Greeks, nor have any relations with them, because the latter were their enemies; and that otherwise they (the Bulgarians) would be made to realize their object.

(Signature.)

March 11, 1880.

No. 305.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 138.)

Philippopoli, March 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 130 of the 12th instant, inclosing a Report by Mr. Simmons on the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations in the district of

Kouush, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the permit or certificate, without which, as stated in the Report of Mr. Simmons, no Greek is allowed to enter a Bulgarian village for the purpose of selling corn, wine, or other merchandize.

I have had great difficulty in obtaining an original printed copy of that permit, as it has only been issued to a few favoured Greeks on the intercession of Bulgarians, friendly or related to them; and even in such cases the recipients have been made to abjure their Greek origin and promise fidelity to the Bulgarian cause.

It is in reality the "Bulgarian Club," or local section of the Gymnastic Society, which causes those permits to be delivered in exceptional cases. The smallness of the payment exacted in favour of the Bulgarian Church School, viz., 3*s.* 8*d.*, appears to denote that the object is not to collect a large amount of revenue, but to enrol members of the Greek Church in the lists of those who recognize the Bulgarian Exarch as their spiritual chief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Certificate.

(Translation from the Bulgarian.)

(Seal of the Bulgarian Church School at Stanimaka.*)

THE present is delivered to M. Athanase Naïdenoff, inhabitant of the town of Stanimaka, of Gradninska Street, a Bulgarian by origin, who, as a member of the Bulgarian Church School community in that street, has paid what is due this year for the support of the priest of that street, 1 rouble silver, 22 piastres.

Stanimaka, $\frac{\text{February 25}}{\text{March 9}}$, 1880.

The Administration of the Church School,

(Signed) V. BOEFF.

Printed by D. W. Manchoff.†

No. 306.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 306.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation by Mr. Student Interpreter Wilmore of an article which has appeared in the Greek newspaper, the "Thrakie," respecting the manner in which the provisions of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin are being put into execution by the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Extract from the "Thrakie" of March 12, 1880.

(Translation.)

WE are constantly receiving from the provinces detailed reports of the work of the Commissions, established in different places by the local authorities, for the purpose of carrying out the scheme of reforms which has been proposed by the Central Government in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Berlin Treaty. We regret to find in these Reports many complaints, both against the manner in which the Commissions are organized, and the method by which they carry out their work. In the first place, we observe that they are chiefly composed of Government officials, although the object of these Commissions is to introduce a liberal code of laws in accordance with International

* The device on the seal is two hands clasped.

† The printer of the Circular and Protocols of the Gymnastic Society.

Treaty. Moreover, those members who are not officials, instead of being elected by the different communities, are appointed by Government authority, so that the provision made by the XXIIIrd Article, to the effect that the national element shall be fairly represented, is entirely disregarded. Thus in many provinces the Greek element is wholly thrust aside, while in others it is represented to an unreasonable extent.

With regard to the way in which the Commissions carry out their work, the following facts are worthy of notice, as exhibiting a spirit entirely opposed to that of the Treaty. In spite of the clear and definite instructions contained in the XXIIIrd Article, a scheme of Regulations, comprising about 450 Articles, has been drawn up by the Sublime Porte and subjected to the approval of the various Commissions. In every case it has been pronounced by the majority to be infallible and irreproachable, without requiring the least modification or addition. In several instances, the mere reading aloud in Turkish of this scheme has been considered sufficient for its approval, notwithstanding the repeated protestations of the minority, who are unable to understand it by reason of the great haste in which it is read, or from their ignorance of the language. We must here call attention to the fact that disputes constantly arose at first between the Mussulman and non-Mussulman members of the Commissions with regard to the language in which judicial decisions should be given. The former, who were supported by the Government, proposed that Turkish alone should be employed, whilst the latter maintained that the language of the minority, in addition to Turkish, ought to be recognized as official. It is needless to remark which opinion prevailed.

Finally, we are astonished to hear that this scheme of reforms makes no mention of the military organization of the country. There was so much talk, both before and after the war, about the equal division of rights and privileges between the Mussulman and non-Mussulman subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, that everyone naturally expected that the very first work of the reforms would be the admission of the non-Mussulman element into the army. No one is ignorant of the fact, that as long as the Mussulman population have the military power exclusively in their own hands, all the rumours of a full and entire equality between the inhabitants of the country, without distinction of religion, will be merely idle talk without any practical meaning.

In the XXIIIrd Article of the Berlin Treaty it is definitely stated that the new Regulations shall be based upon the model of the Organic Law in Crete, in which island the formation of a gendarmerie, consisting partly of Mussulmans and partly of Christians, has proved of the greatest success. In spite of this, no allusion whatever is made in the scheme above-mentioned to a gendarmerie.

No. 307.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 307. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy, which I have obtained confidentially, of the Report addressed by the Council of the Ministry of Commerce to the Prime Minister on three proposals submitted to the Porte for the concession of a State lottery. I have represented privately to Sawas Pasha the very strong objections that there appear to me to exist against a scheme which can, in the end, only add to the financial embarrassments of Turkey, and introduce a noxious spirit of gambling amongst a population hitherto innocent of it. His Excellency assured me that both Said Pasha and himself were opposed to the introduction of a State lottery, but that, owing to the very serious financial difficulties in which the Government found itself, some of the Ministers looked with favour upon a scheme which enabled it to obtain some immediate pecuniary assistance. I should be glad to have your Lordship's instructions as to whether I should take any official steps in the matter. Her Majesty's Government may be disposed to consider that as the Porte has engaged itself to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin to accept an International Financial Commission on behalf of its foreign creditors, it might remonstrate against a scheme which may ultimately seriously affect their interests, and which ought not, therefore, to be adopted until the financial condition of the Empire is inquired into by the proposed Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 307.

Report by the Turkish Ministry of Commerce.

LE Budget de l'Empire ne comportant pas des dépenses extraordinaires pour venir en aide aux réfugiés, qui souffrent de misère tant à Constantinople qu'à l'intérieur, et préoccupés de la nécessité de trouver quelque moyen propre à satisfaire aux besoins pressants des susdits, nous nous sommes arrêtés sur la convenance d'autoriser dans l'Empire une loterie, non pas en l'affermant à ceux qui la sollicitent, mais à condition que le Gouvernement participe au bénéfice de cette loterie.

Il a donc été décidé d'examiner les conditions de cette proposition, et d'y aviser par majorité. Les solliciteurs de cette entreprise sont MM. Bordeano, Zarifi, Coronio, et Collas, et chacun d'eux soumit son projet.

Votre Altesse par son ci-dessus Teskéré, en date du 24 Rebiul Evel, 1297, et 25 Février, 1295, nous ordonne à inviter et entendre les susdits solliciteurs, à délibérer mûrement sur leurs propositions, et à lui soumettre le résultat de notre délibération, à savoir, quelles sont les conditions qui conviennent le plus au Gouvernement Impérial. Ce haut Teskéré, déposé par devant notre Conseil, a été pris en due considération. Les susdits solliciteurs invités, il leur a été communiqué que la loterie en question et son tirage ne serait établie qu'à Constantinople, Adrianople, Smyrne, Brousse, Salonique, et Beyrouth. Quant aux autres vilayets et sandjaks de l'Empire, la vente seulement des billets de la loterie, y aurait lieu, et qu'il faudrait excepter de toute circulation les Vilayets de Hedgaz, de Yemen, de Tarabolus Yarlo, de Bourgas, des Vilayets autonomes, ainsi que des Lieux Saints de Jérusalem.

Votre Altesse, en lisant les propositions ci-dessus en Français des susdits solliciteurs, relativement à leurs conditions, trouvera que celles de M. Bordeano sont de deux modes. Le premier c'est d'affermer la loterie moyennant £T. 100,000, à payer par an aux Gouvernement, offrant en outre à partager également avec ce dernier le surplus des recettes de la loterie au delà de £T. 200,000. Il demande pour terme de sa concession trente-trois ans, et promet, en outre, de venir à des négociations, si c'est possible, six mois après l'établissement de sa Société, pour conclure un emprunt en proportion et contre le revenu de l'affermage en question. Quant aux primes à accorder au public, M. Bordeano, qui dépose son cautionnement de £T. 50,000 et paiera les £T. 100,000 d'affermage annuel, ne pourra les fixer dès aujourd'hui, mais il le fera plus tard, au fur et à mesure des recettes, et il espère qu'elles seront aux environ de 50 pour cent.

Le second mode de proposition de M. Bordeano, c'est d'accorder au Gouvernement 20 pour cent sur le total des recettes de la loterie, et 60 pour cent environ au public en primes, et il déclare que, conformément aux offres des autres, il est prêt à avancer au Gouvernement £T. 250,000.

Quant aux propositions de MM. Zarifi et Coronio, elles sont les suivantes: Ils accordent au Gouvernement 17 pour cent sur le total des recettes, et 60 pour cent environ sur les recettes nettes. Ils promettent en outre une avance de £T. 250,000 garantie par leur susdite redevance.

Les conditions de M. Collas sont d'accorder aussi 17 pour cent au Gouvernement sur le total des recettes et 60 pour cent environ en primes au public. Le terme de concession demandé par lui est de 40 pour cent. Il s'offre, en outre, à prêter au Gouvernement, aussitôt que le Firman de Concession lui sera délivré, £T. 250,000 à 10 pour cent d'intérêt et 10 pour cent d'amortissement. Dans le cas où sa redevance annuelle dépasserait la somme nécessaire pour le service de cet intérêt et amortissement de £T. 250,000, il s'engagerait à négocier un second emprunt sur la base de ce surplus de redevance.

Les conditions des solliciteurs étant ainsi exposées, nous avons trouvé, ainsi qu'il est évident, que les conditions de M. Bordeano sont préférables à celles des autres.

Mais son Excellence Arakel Bey, membre de notre Conseil, et Directeur de la Section des Arts et Métiers, est d'avis que M. Collas étant une personne de moyens solides, mériterait, d'être préféré aux autres.

C'est à votre Altesse d'en disposer et donner ses ordres.

Constantinople, le 28 Février, 1880.

No. 308.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 309. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a memorandum, given to me by Count Corti, as to the *modus operandi* which he proposes for carrying out the exchange of the territory to be given for Gusinjé by the Porte, should it come to an agreement with Montenegro on the subject. Count Corti informs me that he has communicated this memorandum to the Austrian Minister, and to other Representatives of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Memorandum.

AUSSITOT qu'un accord serait intervenu entre les parties intéressées, un mémorandum contenant les termes de la transaction serait signé par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie et le Chargé d'Affaires du Monténégro.

La Sublime Porte adresserait alors une Circulaire aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin pour les inviter à régler sur la base convenue entre les deux parties les difficultés de tracer la frontière Turco-Monténégrine [que la Commission ?] a rencontré dans l'accomplissement de ses travaux. Elle proposerait en même temps d'autoriser à cet effet leurs Représentants à Constantinople à se réunir en Conférence afin de signer un Protocole établissant les conditions de l'échange.

Les Représentants susdits n'auraient même pas besoin d'être muni de plein pouvoirs pour cela, puisqu'il ne s'agirait pas de l'acte définitif. Il serait toutefois entendu que le Protocole aurait la même force et valeur que s'il était revêtu de la forme d'une Convention.

Les Commissaires de Délimitation se rendraient ensuite sur les lieux et traceraient la frontière sur la nouvelle base. Lorsque la Commission de Délimitation aurait terminé ses travaux il serait signé entre les Hautes Parties Contractantes, telles qu'elle aurait été établie par les Commissaires.

Ce procédé est en tout conforme à celui qui a été suivi en l'occasion du réglement de la question de Bolgrad, survenu après la signature du Traité de Paris de 1856.

No. 309.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 310.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Brophy, forwarding the translation of a speech delivered at Varna on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Czar's accession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 309.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, March 10, 1880.

Sir,

HEREWITH I subjoin a full translation of the speech delivered here on the 2nd instant, as likely to interest your Excellency.

The discourse is decidedly a favourable specimen of Bulgarian eloquence.

At his request I furnished my Austrian colleague with a French translation of the same.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 309.

Speech pronounced at Varna on the occasion of the Jubilee of His Imperial Majesty Alexander II, February 19, 1880 (o. s.).

(Translation.)
Brother Bulgars, citizens of Varna!

INVITED to take part in a solemnity like that of to-day, every right-minded Bulgar must experience in succession both enthusiasm and down-heartedness on account of the many historical recollections which have had an influence for good or evil upon our political and moral development.

Partaking of these same feelings, I too dare to unite my feeble voice with those of those persons who may speak about, and embellish with their eloquence, to-day's solemn national fête.

Indeed, brethren, this day is one of the most remarkable and the most solemn for the whole of the Slav world, but above all for us Bulgars; for to-day completes just twenty-five years that the great Monarch and God-crowned Czar, the Liberator, gloriously reigns and sways the sceptre in Russia. And being such a day, it is being celebrated to-day with all solemnity in the vast Empire of the adored Emperor; it is being also celebrated within the narrow boundaries of our State, which has now been gathered together by him, and which brings to our remembrance the Bulgarian Kingdom of long ago, which extended over the greater part of the Balkan Peninsula.

But great and glorious as is this day for holy Russia, it is still greater for our mother-country, Bulgaria, because she also has the privilege (honour) to participate in the celebration of this day, so full of glorious historical reminiscences from the day that His Imperial Majesty Alexander II ascended the august Imperial throne of all the Russias until this day.

It is not for us to count over in this place all the grand works whereby the idolized Czar, the Liberator, has immortalized his name; it suffices to recall one, the most recent and the freshest, which ought to be written in letters of gold, not only in the history of Russia, but also in that of our own country. I mean the Treaty of San Stefano, which was signed this day, the 19th February, 1878, and which solemnly pronounces the Bulgarian nation to be free.

Yes, brethren, we remember this day, and shall (ever) remember it as the greatest for ourselves, which forms an epoch in our historical life; for not we only, but all the world knows that, thanks to our brothers, the Russian nation, and to its magnanimous Sovereign, the whole of Bulgaria was that day called to a new life, not leaving a single Christian slave in all the extent of the martyrized Bulgarian soil, from the Danube to the Maritza, and even beyond that from the Black Sea to the Archipelago, and to the limits of the olden time Kingdom of Samuel.

But from the joy which the recollection of this so important day which cause us enthusiasm, we ought not let ourselves remain under the influence of the sad and mournful thought that all that has not been realized in its entirety, that only a part of enslaved Bulgaria has been liberated, and that the other and most important part has been writ-down and nited still to grovel in slavery.

Yes, so it is, dear brethren; but we, like our liberators, or, still better, like the Czar, the Liberator himself, we must bow before the greater and all-powerful right hand of God on high, who arranges and rules everything according to His Supreme Will: "Man plans, but God shapes."

Still, this does not mean that we, the natural inhabitants of this land, are done for because all that was promised us in the Treaty of San Stefano was not given us, or that the great and holy Slavo-Russian work has been destroyed (fallen to the ground); that the glory of Russia, its honour, or Russian conscience has been obscured (extinguished). No, a thousand times no! For the seed has fallen upon good ground, where it cannot rot; on the contrary, it will spring forth, grow, and give a hundredfold crop at its proper season. It is enough for us not to spoil it (meddle with).

Let us Bulgars, consoled to some extent by this reflection, for that part of the San Stefano Treaty which has been lost or not secured for us, not forget that with this day

is connected for us the memory of a great personage, who ably and unselfishly worked for Bulgarian liberty.

A premature death hurried him away, the civil organizer of liberated Bulgaria, and carried him away exactly on the day that the memorable Treaty of San Stefano was signed.

Here every one of us will pronounce the name blessed departed (late) Prince Tcherkarski, whose name remains immortal, together with the names of all those who gloriously helped in the great work of the liberation of our country, and indubitably all of them will be counted in contemporaneous history as amongst the greatest workers (labourers) of Christianity.

So, then, being assembled to-day to participate in the festival of our brothers, our liberators, on the occasion of the jubilee of the Emperor Alexander II, while we pray for his precious health, and for that of his august family, as well as for the health of His Highness our well-beloved Prince, let us not forget in our prayers all those who by their deaths of martyrs have redeemed Bulgarian liberty—the crown of the very great and meritorious of his most august Majesty, the Emperor of all the Russias.

Long live, then, the best of all the good Russian Emperors, Alexander II, together with his reigning house! Hurrah!

Long live also our well-beloved Prince Alexander I of Bulgaria! Hurrah!

Long live holy Russia, liberatress of Bulgaria! Hurrah!

Long live and flourish the Bulgarian nation of Great Bulgaria of San Stefano! Hurrah! hurrah!

No. 310.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 314.)
Constantinople, March 16, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch No. 1 of the 10th January last, of which a copy was forwarded to your Lordship in my No. 138 of the 26th of the same month, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from that gentleman relative to the release of Mustafa Pronio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 310.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, March 6, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th January last, reporting to your Excellency the release of Mustafa Pronio, I have now the honour to inclose copy and translation of a petition addressed to the various Consuls at Janina by the inhabitants of Selini, and having reference to the same subject.

Since the receipt of the above copy of the petition, private information, however, reached me to the effect that Pronio has once more been imprisoned, and this, it appears, is due to some remarks made on the subject by the authorities at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 310.

Petition from Inhabitants of Selini.

(Translation.)
Selini, February 12, 1880 (o. s.).

Sir,

THE undersigned inhabitants of the village of Selini, district of Paramithia, have heard, with despair and horror, that the authorities in Epirus entrusted with final justice, from which depends the good order and security of nations, have not only, under the pretext of illness, and after a light punishment, prematurely released from

prison Mustafa Pronio, who has committed myriads of atrocities in our village, but making sport of justice and of the laws, have allowed this brutal murderer to return to our village, still stained with the blood spilt by his own hands.

Our horror and despair is succeeded by a just and irrepressible wrath, which, having no consideration for hatred or danger, drives us to the unalterable decision to protect with our own hands our rights so inhumanly trodden, throwing the responsibility of all that might result therefrom on Government, and thus prove to the civilized world the right of the inhabitants of this district to protest against reforms, for under such authority and administration there can no longer exist the slightest hope for the tranquillity of this much afflicted country.

(Here follow 30 signatures.)

No. 311.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 317.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1880.

My Lord,

Amongst the despatches to your Lordship from Consul-General Michell which I am transmitting to you to-day is one inclosing a Report by Mr. Simmons on the distress existing amongst the Mussulman inhabitants of the Conoush district. I would venture to suggest that some means should be taken to make this Report public. Your Lordship will perceive that Reuter's agent at Philippopoli is endeavouring to mislead people in England by his telegrams denying the fact that the returned Mahommedan refugees are exposed to great suffering and ill-treatment, and thus seeking to check English sympathy in their behalf. This individual, M. Malteoff, is a well-known Bulgarian agitator, whom Mr. Palgrave, when Consul-General in Bulgaria, retained in his service as Secretary and Interpreter, notwithstanding my urgent representations, and who, I have reason to believe, was disloyal to him.

It is only through the funds with which Lady Burdett Coutts and other charitable persons have supplied me that I have been able to relieve some of the distress described by Mr. Michell and Mr. Simmons. Those funds are now almost exhausted. The publication of Mr. Simmons' Report may procure a little further help for the poor starving Mussulmans who are the objects of Bulgarian persecutions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 312.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 319.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING received a telegram from Mr. Consul-General Michell, of which I inclose the decypher, informing me that he had been addressed in an official letter signed by Mr. Kissiakoff, as Director of Justice, inclosing a summons for the messenger Regib, and asking me whether Mr. Kissiakoff had been confirmed in this post, I at once brought the matter to the notice of Sawas Pasha. His Excellency had, on more than one occasion, distinctly and emphatically declared to me that the Sultan had refused to confirm Mr. Kissiakoff's appointment, and had called upon Aleko Pasha to revoke it. He expressed great indignation at this open violation on the part of the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia of the Organic Statute, and at his defiance of the Sultan's authority. He requested me to telegraph at once to Mr. Michell *en clair* that the Porte did not recognize Mr. Kissiakoff as Director of Justice, and that, in consequence, his exercise of the functions of that office was entirely illegal. His Excellency further requested me to obtain for the Porte a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. Michell, signed by Mr. Kissiakoff, with the summons of Regib. I accordingly sent Mr. Michell the telegram of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have, since writing this despatch, received from Mr. Michell the original summons, signed by Mr. Kissiakoff, which I shall show to Sawas Pasha.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 312.

Mr. Michell to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March* 11, 1880.

I HAVE received official letter signed by Kissiakoff as Director of Justice. Has he been confirmed? It incloses a summons for your messenger Regib, described as my servant. I shall return it on ground of inaccurate description. He is summoned by [? Minister of Justice, Ottoman Porte] because he sold his house, which is next his own, to a Greek, not to him.

Inclosure 2 in No. 312.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Michell.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 13, 1880.

PORTE does not recognize Kissiakoff as Director of Justice. Consequently, his exercise of the functions of that office is entirely illegal. I am requested by the Porte to produce the letter he has addressed to you with summons for Regib. Send it or a copy to me at once.

No. 313.

Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 1. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, March* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith the copy of a despatch which I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the 29th ultimo, and in which I transmitted to his Excellency a translation of the Report on the condition of the Adrianople gendarmerie addressed by Colonel Blunt to Réouf Pasha at the end of last year.

A perusal of Colonel Blunt's Report will, I doubt not, assist your Lordship to form a conception of the difficulties under which the British officers in the Turkish gendarmerie still labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 313.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Adrianople, February* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith a translation of the Report on the gendarmerie of the Adrianople Vilayet addressed to Réouf Pasha by Colonel Blunt at the end of December, and which the latter officer has been good enough to communicate to me.

Your Excellency will perceive, after a perusal of this Report, that the difficulties with which Colonel Blunt has had to contend (in a great measure due to the hostility of the present Ministers) were so numerous and of such a nature as to render the thorough and efficient organization of the gendarmerie in this vilayet impossible.

After paying a tribute to the loyal assistance which the Governor-General has always been ready to accord to him, Colonel Blunt proceeds to enumerate and describe the obstacles which have been placed in the way of the gendarmerie, but in spite of which that force has succeeded in earning such a reputation, that the district Governors have all requested that the military (performing police duties) "might be withdrawn and replaced by gendarmes."

With a muster roll never exceeding 700 men, and now reduced to 400, the gendarmerie have been able to maintain comparative order in a province containing thousands of starving and homeless refugees, and in which other elements of disorder were rife.

Besides the insufficiency of men, Colonel Blunt had numberless difficulties to contend against.

For instance, after repeated applications made by Réouf Pasha for an increase of the force, either by the dispatch of recruits from Constantinople or by permission being granted to enrol men at Adrianople, the Minister of War finally consented to a certain number of volunteers from the Rédif battalions of the Adrianople Vilayet being drafted into the gendarmerie. At Stamboul, however, these men were promised 300 and 400 piastres a-month; whereas the Seraskierate was well aware that the gendarmerie pay was only 100 piastres. As was but natural, they were not content with the latter pay, which had not even the advantage of being regularly distributed, and the Rédif battalions from which they had been taken being disbanded shortly afterwards, nearly all of them resigned their posts in the gendarmerie.

Moreover, rumours were maliciously spread among the men that their pay would be altogether stopped, and permission to quit the force refused unless they resigned at once, a belief which was calculated to produce a most demoralizing effect on the force.

Add to this the fact that the quarters allotted to them are almost uninhabitable from want of repair, and so accessible to the cold and wet that the inmates are frequently invalided; the inadequate pay, the insufficient equipment and clothing, and the almost incessant work imposed on the individual members of the force, owing to its numerical weakness; and your Excellency will perceive that nothing more unpropitious to the satisfactory working of the gendarmerie could have been devised than the circumstances in which it has been placed.

But the crowning act of obstruction of which the Turkish War Office has been guilty has yet to be told. In order to fill up the vacancies caused by the resignation of the Rédifs who had volunteered, Réouf Pasha authorized Colonel Blunt to enrol natives of the province, and a considerable number of unmarried men of good character, for whom the pay would have sufficed, immediately offered their services. But the recruitment had scarcely begun when a peremptory telegram from the Seraskierate arrived, ordering it to be stopped.

The War Office has also shown Colonel Blunt personal slights, as when it sent back to assume military command at Adrianople three officers whom he had caused to be dismissed from the gendarmerie for drunkenness and misconduct, one of them even returning with promotion.

Colonel Blunt's Report concludes with several sound and useful suggestions in view of the improvement of the gendarmerie; but while the present influences remain paramount at the War Office, it seems hopeless to expect that they will ever be carried out.

In a private letter to me, Colonel Blunt mentions several minor obstacles and evidences of ill-will, the responsibility of which seems to rest with the local authorities. For instance, the barracks at first allotted to the gendarmes were allowed, in spite of his urgent remonstrances, to remain in a state of disgraceful disrepair, until the moment when the gendarmerie were transferred to other quarters and replaced in the barracks by regular troops; when the necessary repairs were immediately made.

Colonel Blunt has, moreover, great difficulty in getting the authorities and police to report crimes to him—an evident proof of jealousy. The General commanding the forces here ignores instead of assisting him; and the gendarmerie officers, noticing this, are apt, when at a distance, to disregard the orders of their Colonel.

Colonel Blunt is of opinion, and I cannot but fully agree with him, that these "local obstacles," if I may so term them, arise chiefly from the fact of his position being too ambiguous to enable him to enforce his authority. Military rank being alone recognized, that of Inspector, with the nominal grade of Colonel, is not sufficient to carry weight with either the military commandants or the superior officers with whom his duties bring him into frequent contact. In local Medjlisses or Committees, it gives him no voice. As Divisional Inspector, he has the command of the gendarmerie of the whole vilayet, and bears the responsibility of its efficient working. Yet his dubious position renders him, so to say, vulnerable to all sorts of little intrigues and jealousies.

Colonel Blunt has been informed that a Turkish Colonel is shortly to be sent to command the Adrianople gendarmerie; and, in that case, he, holding the same rank but nominally, could have no power to prevent the Turkish officer introducing into the gendarmerie changes which no intelligent European could approve of. Colonel Blunt's authority would, in fact, become *nil*, and he would only be called upon to draw up Reports which would probably be unattended to.

Colonel Blunt, therefore, considers it most important that, if a model gendarmerie is really to take the place of the old zaptieh system, so notorious for corruption and inefficiency, the European officer commanding it should hold the rank of Liva or Brigadier-General. That rank need only be local, and need bring no increase of pay; but the greater authority which it would give is absolutely necessary for the successful organiza-

tion and working of one of the most useful measures of reform which have to be carried out in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 313.

Colonel Blunt to Réouf Pasha.

Adrianople, December 31, 1879.

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour, at the close of the year, to lay before you my Report on the gendarmerie of the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I avail myself of this opportunity to offer my grateful acknowledgments for the invariable kindness and ready assistance I have at all times met with from your Excellency, without which it would have been utterly impossible to attempt my task.

Your Excellency is aware of the obstacles and difficulties I have had to contend with, by which all my efforts to organize a gendarmerie were almost nullified, and I must express my best thanks for your Excellency's repeated assurances of satisfaction with my work, and confidence in my succeeding should circumstances place such success in my power.

On the 9th March General Baker, at the desire of your Excellency, requested me to proceed to Adrianople. Colonels Whitty and Azmi Bey, with 160 gendarmes, accompanied me. Three battalions of 800 each and a proportionate number of cavalry were then promised to us, whereas the whole force at my disposal for the nine months has been 700 men, including cavalry and the 160 above-mentioned.

These men were Rédifs and old zaptiehs. The latter being recognized by the people as having ill-treated them for years, had to be sent back.

This left us with some 660 men in all. We arrived at Adrianople the 10th March. The evacuation of the Russians had commenced. Adrianople and its environs were in great agitation, and the excitement and alarm of the people intense.

We immediately took all possible precautions, guards, patrols night and day, "karakols" were posted in all directions, and every measure calculated to reassure the population, who seemed at once to feel thorough confidence in the gendarmes.

From all parts of the vilayet came continual demands for them—the Mutessarifs and Kaimakams requesting that the military might be withdrawn and replaced by gendarmes.

Early in April, during the Easter Festival, a time which had been invariably marked for its ill-blood and misdeeds, not the slightest disturbance occurred.

The heads of the different religious communities, accompanied by the Notables, came in bodies to express their thanks to me, the Chief Rabbi stating that it was the first time the Jews had been able to circulate in the town during Easter without insult.

The Russians having left, and Adrianople being tranquil, it became necessary to attempt some measures of protection for the rest of the vilayet.

The Chief of the Staff informs me that the Vilayet of Adrianople contains about 254,170 square kilometres. It has a mixed population, of which no census has been taken since the war.

It comprises 6 sandjaks, subdivided into 32 cazas:—

In the Sandjak of Adrianople 4 cazas; Demotoca, 4 cazas; Gallipoli, 5 cazas; Rodosto, 6 cazas; Gumuldjina, 5 cazas; Kirk-Kilissi, 8 cazas.

How was it possible to organize a gendarmerie for such an extent of country with 660 men?

The town of Adrianople alone, being head-quarters, requires over a battalion, and a squadron for "karakols," guards, patrols, detachments and daily service at the Tribunals and public offices.

Judging from inspections and local reports, I determined, with your Excellency's approval, to send 1 company to Gumuldjina, 1 company to Demotoca, 1 company to Kirk-Kilissi, and a few cavalry.

These companies had to be subdivided among the cazas; therefore 10 or 12 men only would be placed where over 50 were required.

I distributed one company and a-half in the Sandjak of Andrinople, retaining 250 men for the town, the suburbs known as resorts of malefactors and Karagatch, where, from the continual arrival and departure of refugees, there was constant excitement.

The daily service was so severe that the men had barely nine hours' rest out of the twenty-four. Your Excellency, seeing this could not continue, substituted military for several guards. This measure, as your Excellency is aware, was received with dissatisfaction by the people.

To point out the utter insufficiency of the force is unnecessary; the more so, as gendarmes are required to escort the Procureurs-Généraux, the Bishops, the collectors of taxes, and merchants travelling on business.

Under these circumstances, I must congratulate your Excellency that in a country prostrate from the effects of a terrible war, with thousands and thousands of houseless starving refugees, the efforts we were able to make have been so far successful that aggressions and crimes (all reports of which have been forwarded to your Excellency) were comparatively few in number.

The north of the vilayet, situated under the Balkans in the Sandjak of Kirk-Kilissi, Adrianople, and Gumuldjina, which form the western frontier, more especially require the gendarmerie. Criminals if Bulgars make at once for the frontier. Crimes here have chiefly been from ill-blood. On the other hand, under the Rhodope the villagers, chiefly Rayahs, whose industry is charcoal burning, complain bitterly of the continual stealing of their cattle.

Great assistance might be given to the gendarmerie by the selection of men from the different villages to be attached as detectives.

Judging from the reports on the conduct of the gendarmes, the continued requests made for their assistance by the various authorities, and the confidence expressed in them by the population, your Excellency I believe concurs that were the requisite force given and organization permitted, the vilayet would need no other safeguard, and the old zaptieh system of corruption and abuses would be entirely done away with.

Added to insufficiency of men there are many other obstacles.

The Rédifs who (they personally assured me) had been promised at Stamboul 300 and 400 piastres a-month naturally rebelled at the pay of 100 piastres, and that irregularly paid. Immediately they ascertained that the Rédif battalions were being disbanded, they petitioned to leave also. Your Excellency, coinciding as to the justice of their request, and the futility of endeavouring to retain men under such circumstances, about 400 inscribed their names to leave. I allow them to go at night in small detachments from time to time, the population having expressed alarm at the rumour of the gendarmerie being dissolved.

About 200 will be left of the force originally sent from Stamboul.

The barracks where the gendarmes are placed in Adrianople and other parts are in a deplorable condition, almost uninhabitable, the men exposed to wet and cold with hardly any means of warmth. Several have been sent to the hospital.

These privations, added to the inadequate pay (and that often in arrear), for men with wives and families, together with the incessant guards, patrols, &c., have naturally contributed to cause dissatisfaction. Yet these men do their duties well, have produced a good impression everywhere, and always express their readiness to obey my orders—a proof that there might be no difficulty in accomplishing our task.

Being told that various rumours were being spread amongst them of their pay being altogether stopped, and all leave to return to their homes refused unless they insisted on leaving at once, I made strict inquiries, and ascertained that several men in the disguise of tobacco-sellers, &c., all believed to be agents from Stamboul, had been in the barracks endeavouring by all kinds of misrepresentations to augment the dissatisfaction.

The uniforms made at Stamboul are of wretched material; in a few weeks they were threadbare. It became impossible to maintain any appearance of cleanliness, much less of smartness.

Your Excellency sanctioned my proposal to recruit among the population, and to form a mixed force. I found a great difficulty in enlisting Christians. Almost all those of good character, having a fair means of livelihood by their trade, refused the pay of 100 piastres, added to the rumoured uncertainty of the gendarmerie. Christians without any occupation, known as *mauvais sujets*, we could not accept. A great number of Mussulmans offered themselves, and selecting unmarried men, for whom the pay sufficed, we might have taken any amount, when an order arrived suddenly from Stamboul to stop all recruiting.

The instruction of the gendarmerie, which forms so essential a part of its organization, has been out of the question, owing to paucity of numbers and constant work. I accordingly framed a Code of Regulations, which, with your Excellency's approval, I issued to officers and men, both as a guide to their duties and the observance of the laws of the country.

In a gendarmerie properly constituted great circumspection is required in the selection of officers. Yet in the short space of nine months I have been obliged to send five officers to be tried by court-martial for drunkenness and scandalous conduct. Two of these officers were permitted to return in their *ci-devant* military position to Adrianople. Another received his promotion in the army to a captaincy. These facts speak for themselves.

The non-commissioned officers, who ought to be men of some instruction, cannot, with but few exceptions, either read or write.

For the necessary service and safety of the vilayet, as your Excellency is aware, a gendarmerie of at least 2,000 infantry and 800 cavalry is required.

In each sandjak should be placed a battalion of infantry and a squadron. This force would be augmented or modified according to the state of the population and necessary subdivisions in towns and villages.

A complete chain of communication by means of "karakols" should be established from one post to the other, so as to give instant information of crime, ensure the apprehension of criminals, and form uninterrupted supervision.

In the Sandjak of Adrianople should be placed a battalion of infantry, and a squadron for ordinary service. One battalion of infantry and one squadron should also be retained in the town, that being the head-quarters, to form a reserve, and to receive special instruction in all duties, whether gendarmerie or military, the gendarmerie forming an integral part of the army.

This reserve being thoroughly instructed would be exchanged for another battalion, which would replace it at Adrianople. By this means the whole gendarmerie would acquire equal instruction, and a reserve ready for any emergency would be always at hand.

Frequent inspections must be made throughout the vilayet for reliable information on the state of the people and country.

The gendarmes should be regularly paid, properly lodged, and well dressed. They should command respect by their appearance, as well as by the proper execution of their duties.

Your Excellency having done me the honour not only of sanctioning my Regulations, but of expressing the belief that they comprise all that is required for "the organization of the gendarmerie, the tranquillity of the vilayet, and the maintenance of the law," I need not enter into further particulars.

In presenting my Report to your Excellency, I beg to repeat my conviction that a well-organized gendarmerie, commanded by European officers, and supported by the authorities, would, especially under the auspices of your Excellency, satisfy all the requirements of the country for protection and safety, and acquire the entire confidence of the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER F. BLUNT, *Colonel and Inspector-in-chief of the Gendarmerie, Vilayet of Adrianople.*

No. 314.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 38. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 15, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 176 and 177, Political, of the 30th and 31st December last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that several Mahommedan gentlemen of Podgoritza have lately called upon me, and inquired of me whether I could assist them in obtaining the restitution of their real property seized by the Montenegrin Government on the grounds stated in its memorandum of the 26th December, 1876.

These gentlemen tell me that they have not definitively withdrawn from Podgoritza, and that they have left relatives there in charge of their interests, but that the Montenegrin authorities now refuse to allow them to cultivate the lands, and have taken possession of the house property.

Article XXX of the Treaty of Berlin is so explicit, that I venture to think steps ought to be concerted to inform the Montenegrin Government that the title obtained by it to the possession of the annexed districts in no way empowers it to infringe the Article in question, and act in the arbitrary manner set forth in its memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 315.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March 16, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, during the past week, rumours have been current here that a concentration of Montenegrin troops is being effected in the Krajna (the western shores of Lake Scutari) and near Antivari.

A deputation from Dulcigno was sent to the Vali here to express the alarm of the inhabitants of that place, and to point out that, unassisted, the town is quite unable to defend itself.

Two days later a second deputation was dispatched to Scutari to state that a movement of Montenegrin troops was undoubtedly taking place, and that private notice had been sent from Montenegro to some persons in Dulcigno announcing the reoccupation of the place for an early date.

Although the Turkish authorities have affected to disbelieve these rumours, I understand they have telegraphed in some alarm to the Porte, and Izzet Pasha will probably proceed himself to Dulcigno in a day or two.

From Montenegro I have no information on this subject, but I should not be surprised to learn, if the Italian Chargé d'Affaires has advised the ultimatum to the Porte suggested by Count Corti, that Prince Nicholas may have wished to give an appearance of reality to his threats by causing reports such as have reached the Dulcignotes to be spread at Antivari and elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 316.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 25, 1880.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir H. Layard:—

"During the last few days considerable agitation has existed here, a report having obtained that the Porte has exchanged a portion of the Roman Catholic mountain to the east of Lake of Scutari with Montenegro.

"The Christian tribes and the Mahommedans have pledged themselves anew to oppose Montenegro, and all the measures taken when the resistance to the cession of Gusinjé was first imagined are now being repeated, and are causing some alarm.

"I have carefully endeavoured to ascertain the origin of these proceedings, and I fear this time also the Ottoman authority must be held to be secretly promoting them, but I pray that this opinion may not be given to the Porte as mine.

"Can your Excellency inform me whether an arrangement has been come to with the Prince?

"(Sent to Foreign Office)."

No. 317.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 25, 1880.*

INQUIRY into Stanimaka riot is being conducted by the President of the Gymnastic Society from which Circular ostracizing Greeks emanated. Consequently, numerous Greeks, but no Bulgarians, are being imprisoned. Great excitement prevails among Greeks, and disorders may ensue. Greek Consul has protested, and refused to send Dragoman before such a Court to defend Hellenic subjects.

(Sent to Pera).

No. 318.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 26.*)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 25, 1880.*

"PHILIPPOUPOLIS" published yesterday letter from seven representatives of three villages in Kyrdjali relating to atrocities committed by militia and gymnasts in that district. They give a list of more than 100 women and children outraged, mutilated, and murdered, in addition to property and cattle robbed.

(Sent to Pera).

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 26.*)

(No. 140. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 25, 1880.*

TURKISH Minister at Cettinjé has telegraphed to the Porte that the Prince of Montenegro has informed him at an interview that he learns from Constantinople that the Turkish Government has no intention to accept the last proposal made by Montenegro for exchange of territory in Gusinjé question, and that if such be the case the good relations between the two Governments cannot continue, and that presence of Turkish Minister at Cettinjé becomes unnecessary.

Sawas Pasha admitted to-day that the Albanian influence is too strong to allow him to hope that the Sultan will listen to the advice of his Ministers. I represented in strongest terms to His Majesty yesterday the great importance of settling the question without delay, and the inevitable consequences if he did not.

He promised to attend to the matter at once, but does not appear to have done so. Count Corti tells me that he will withdraw from the affair [?] on the 31st instant, and will leave for Italy to-morrow week.

No. 320.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 9, 1880.*

MONDAY, the 8th instant, was the fortieth day since the present General Assembly of the Cretans began its sittings, and as they are limited to forty days, and some measures of importance yet remained to be considered, two meetings were held on that day.

Some hesitation seems to have been felt about the propriety of demanding the renewal of the grant of half the proceeds of the customs dues, which had been ceded for one year to defray the expenses of the Civil Administration. As, however, the authorities hold in their hands bills (havalés) to the amount of 6,000,000 piastres (about 50,000*l.*), drawn on the Treasuries of Tripoli and Salonica, which have been returned dishonoured, and as, moreover, they are compelled themselves to contract a loan for 20,000*l.*, the Deputies thought themselves justified in calling on the Porte to renew the grant, if only as a means of paying a debt due to the local Treasury. Both Christians and Mussulmans concurred in making this demand.

Similarly, a large majority of both communities voted that the seat of Government in Crete be transferred from Canea to Candia, as being more central. But other reasons point to the present capital as best fitted by its position for the seat of Government, being, as it is, in the near neighbourhood of Suda Bay and not far from Sphakia, whence troubles are most likely to arise; and these reasons will doubtless weigh with the Porte in inducing it to reject the wish of the Assembly. The Sphakians themselves and the Deputies from the surrounding districts were in favour of retaining Canea as the capital.

The next question which came on for discussion was one which at once ranged the members of the two religious communities on opposite sides. This had reference to the appropriation, for the use of mosques, of certain tithes which the Christans allege to have been unjustly alienated from the local Budget by an abuse of the power of former Governors in times long gone by. The claim for their restitution to their original uses

was put forward by the last Assembly, and was rejected by the Porte, as I had the honour to explain in my despatch No. 12 of the 3rd February of last year. The Christians pretend to have since discovered in old ledgers of the public accounts that much landed property, and notably that in the neighbourhood of Candia, formerly contributed 30 paras per deunum (about ⅓ of an acre), and that this contribution was subsequently commuted for the entire tithes of those lands, which were thus lost to the local Budget. That the appropriation of public property to so-called religious purposes was connived at by former Governors appears not unlikely, and it is one of the functions of provincial Parliaments to expose abuses of the kind, especially since the money is often misappropriated and goes into the pockets of dishonest trustees of mosque property. The value of these tithes is estimated to amount to about 7,000*l.* a-year, a sum which would go far towards equalizing the revenue and expenditure of the island. It is probable that the Porte will again refuse to admit the right of the Administration to the disputed tithes, especially as a clause in the Firman of 1878 confirms the present proprietors in the right to them.

Finally, at a sitting in which the Christian Deputies alone took part, a petition was presented praying that the present local law which pronounces sentence of banishment against all persons changing their religion may be abrogated. The Christians limited their demand in favour of those who, ostensibly Mussulmans, desired to return to their original faith, for it is doubtful if there exist cases of Christians anxious to embrace the religion of Islam. It is clear that the penalty complained of ought to be at once annulled.

Of the work accomplished by the Assembly by far the most important is that which proposed that Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure, drafted by an eminent lawyer of Greek nationality, should be adopted in the Cretan Tribunals. As I had the honour to point out at the time, the introduction of these draft Codes created a schism in the Assembly, by drawing forth a protest from the Mussulman Deputies. They were, nevertheless, voted by a legal quorum, and as such have been submitted for the approval of the Porte. By next post I hope to be able to forward copies of them, in case your Lordship should wish to form an opinion on their merits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 321.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Governor-General received yesterday a telegram from the Prime Minister appointing M. John Sealzounis Inspector-General of the Tribunals in Crete. The telegram added that, in case that gentleman was willing to become an Ottoman subject, the Porte was ready to name him President of the Court of Appeal.

It is a subject of regret to all who are acquainted with the merits and capacity of M. Sealzounis that he has declined both the posts offered for his acceptance, and will leave the island in a fortnight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 322.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 27.*)

(No. 262.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 26, 1880.*

IN conversation this afternoon, M. de Freycinet mentioned the note which your Lordship addressed to Admiral Pothuau on the 20th instant, in answer to inquiries which he had been instructed to make us to certain points connected with the proposed Greek Frontier Commission.

M. de Freycinet observed that the note was silent on one of these points, the composition of the Commission. Could I tell him what view Her Majesty's Government took of the proposal that each Power should appoint two Commissioners, one of whom

should be more specially charged with the diplomatic part of the business, and the other with the technical part.

I replied that I had no instructions on the subject, but that for my own part I did not consider it likely that Her Majesty's Government would object to each Power having two Commissioners, if that were the general wish. On the other hand, I did not, I said, think that Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to hamper themselves with any engagement as to the particular character or profession of the Commissioners they might appoint, or as to assigning to each any distinct or special functions.

M. de Freycinet answered that he should be quite satisfied if it were simply settled that each Power should have two Commissioners.

I begged him to remember that I had only expressed an unauthorized opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 323.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 26, 1880.*

PERSIAN Ambassador suggests, but does not wish his name to appear, that as the mediating Powers are in possession of all the facts respecting the boundary question, Turkish and Persian Governments should be asked to appoint a Boundary Commission to decide the question finally, or no agreement will ever be come to.

This is the [? reply to the] suggestion of General Hamley.

I am pressing on Porte to fix time of meeting of Boundary Commission, and expect an answer immediately.

No. 324.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 26, 1880.*

AT a general meeting held to-day it was decided to prevent, from to-morrow, all intercourse with Podgoritza, and after Easter to devise what further steps must be adopted.

St. John's despatches received to-day, dated up to the 22nd, report affairs as again very unsettled, the people of Jacova threatening to attack Prisrend.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 325.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, March 26, 1880.*

A MUSSULMAN priest has arrived to represent, on behalf of twenty-four villages in Kirdjtur district, atrocities committed by militia and gymnasts.

Notwithstanding contrary statements made to me by the General, the gymnasts helped the militia throughout their horrible [?] proceedings.

The priest asks me to investigate the matter on the spot, as the truth will otherwise never be known. The Gymnastic Societies will stifle it.

If your Lordship wishes me to make such an inquiry in the district, it would be advisable that the Austrian Government should delegate local Consul.

The atrocities are on such a large scale that I think the Porte would be justified in sending a responsible [?] Commissioner.

It appears to me most necessary to reassure Mussulman population by such means.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 326.

Lord Tenterden to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 76. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 27, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 137.

Admiralty have given instructions to insure presence of a ship of war at Jeddah until further orders.

Her Majesty's ship "Hart" will remain there until relieved.

(Repeated to Biarritz.)

No. 327.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 213. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 137 of the 24th instant, in which you informed me that there was reason to apprehend disturbances at Jeddah on the appointment of a successor to the late Grand Sheriff of Mecca, and that it had been suggested to your Excellency that it was desirable that some of Her Majesty's ships should be at once ordered to proceed to that port, I informed your Excellency by telegraph this day that instructions have been issued by the Lords of the Admiralty to ensure the presence of a man-of-war at Jeddah until further orders, and that Her Majesty's ship "Hart" will remain at that place until relieved by another vessel.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 327*.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, March 27, 1880.*

FOR communication to Lady Strangford:—

"I have spent 75*l.* for bread in Aleppo alone. At Daer, Zeitoun, and other places deaths are occurring from starvation. Relief will be required for two and a half months, till harvest commences. To prevent starvation 15*l.* a-day are required at Aleppo, and as much elsewhere."

[?] telegraph.

No. 328.

Consul Calvert to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, March 28, 1880.*

ALEKO PASHA has informed Réouf Pasha that the Bulgarian Government has notified to that of Philippopoli that no refugees will be allowed to return to Bulgaria by way of Eastern Roumelia. A convoy of 800 have consequently been stopped by Aleko. This is a vital question for the refugees, as the sowing time will be over if they do not return at once. Aleko has also requested Réouf not to send any more Turks to Eastern Roumelia until end of April, when sowing will be nearly impossible.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 329.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)

Sophia, March 14, 1880.

My Lord,

AS my stay in this country is now drawing to a close, I venture to address to your Lordship the following brief remarks on the present state of Bulgaria, and of her chance of maintaining the position accorded to her by the Treaty of Berlin.

In judging the progress she has already made, it would be unfair not to take into consideration the manifold disadvantages under which she labours, such as the almost entire absence of men having any experience of the principles of government, her pecuniary embarrassments, and the resistance to constituted authority which, having been taught to the people during their struggles with the Greek clergy and with their Turkish masters, has taken so firm a root in their minds that nothing but a firm hand can eradicate it. Still, the fact remains, after making all possible allowances, that Bulgaria has not, as yet, shown any great desire to prove herself worthy of her newly-acquired liberties, or that all the blood and money spent in her cause have not been wasted.

Even the Russians are unable to conceal their disappointment with their protégés, and I have heard many bitter complaints of the ingratitude which they allege they experience in their dealings with them.

One of the traits in the Bulgarian character which will, I fear, go far to check their progress, is their intense dislike and suspicion of foreigners and foreign ideas. The fact of any scheme of industrial enterprise, no matter how beneficial it may be to the country, being started by foreigners, is sufficient to cause every possible annoyance and obstacle to be placed in the way of its promoters.

I may mention, as an example among many, the case of a French gentleman representing a large amount of capital which it was proposed to invest in the erection of a flour-mill on improved principles, the want of which is much felt, as, owing to the primitive system of the native mills, the flour ground by them is not fit for exportation. After great difficulty this gentleman succeeded in buying the land with proper water power, but he has experienced so much vexatious opposition that he is on the point of giving up his scheme in despair.

About three weeks ago the Chief of the Municipality sent by night gendarmes to destroy the little of the work which has been commenced, and on M. Scheffer, the French Agent, complaining of this act of aggression towards one of his subjects, and demanding the dismissal of the Chief of the Municipality, he was told that this could not be done without danger of creating a revolution.

M. Natchovits himself told me the other day, when I was making inquiries with reference to the wish of some English capitalists to purchase and farm land in Bulgaria, that the Government did not wish to encourage foreigners "to encamp," as he termed it, in the province, in order to enrich themselves at its expense, but that they would be welcomed if they would become Bulgarians, and love the country for itself.

I imagine that the experience of a few years will cause a change in these ideas, and that the Bulgarians will learn that the man who causes the soil to produce double or treble of what it does now, is a benefactor to the country, even though he be a foreigner, and may enrich himself at the same time.

Already the peasants are beginning to regret the departure of the wealthy Mussulman landowners, who, as they themselves admit, were always ready to lend them seed, or to find work during the winter months. The people will some day perceive the ill effects of their short-sighted policy in driving away their Mussulman brethren; one result has been to diminish to a great extent the quantity of land under cultivation, for the Bulgarian, in spite of his reputation for industry, is not inclined, unless compelled, to work more than is necessary to satisfy his wants, which are of the simplest description.

In fact, Bulgaria is at the present moment much in the same condition as the Southern States of America would have been had all the white proprietors been forced to leave the country after the emancipation of the negroes, and the Government been handed over to the latter.

Another hindrance to all commerce or industry is the excessive number of holidays in the year, which have been increased by the forcible adoption of all the principal Russian fête days, besides the anniversaries of various events during the late war.

The total number of the days during which all work is suspended under pain of heavy fines is 160, or nearly half the year.

The condition of the Mussulmans leaves much to be desired. In spite of the good

intentions of the Prince, there is no doubt that their lot is a hard one, especially in those districts where they are numerous. In Sophia itself, and the immediate neighbourhood, I have not heard of any case of actual personal ill-treatment, but I have already informed your Lordship of the various devices employed to keep them out of their property. Even here only one mosque is open for divine worship, and in no place is the "Muezzin" allowed to call to prayer from the minarets.

In the country no Mussulman dares go back to his farm without securing the services of some Bulgarians as escort, and the sight of a fez is the signal for abuse and insults.

The treatment of the Mussulmans in the Dobrudscha forms, I am informed on good authority, a striking contrast to what they experience in Bulgaria. There, on the contrary, they are well treated, and inducements are held out to them to remain.

Mahmoud Nedim, one of Nihad Pasha's Secretaries, who has recently arrived from Bucharest, informed me that the Roumanian Government even goes the length of paying the Mussulman Imams more than what they receive in Turkey.

As in a short time a great number of refugees will probably arrive in this country only to find their homes either in ruins or occupied by the Bulgarians, it has struck me that they might possibly be passed on to the Dobrudscha. The Roumanian Agent, to whom I have casually mentioned this idea, tells me that he believes his Government would not only welcome, but would assist them to a certain extent in finding their living at first.

In a political point of view, and in the event of future complications, as it is hardly probable that Roumania, after her recent experience, will cast in her lot again with that of Russia, it might be advantageous that she should possess a population affording such excellent material for soldiers as the Turks, who would naturally be eager to seize an occasion for revenging their recent defeats.

I would now venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the government of the country with reference to the Bulgarians themselves, but on this point it is premature to pronounce any decided opinion, for, during my stay here, there has hardly been any government at all. As your Lordship is aware, shortly after my arrival the Prince, despairing of being able to form a Ministry from the Opposition owing to the principles which they then professed, dissolved the Chambers, and the country has since then been governed by the minority, which, as nearly all the employés and the provincial Governors are its adversaries, is almost powerless to enforce its decisions. At that time the Prince had perhaps no other alternative, but it is to be hoped that, on the approaching meeting of the National Assembly, when the present Ministry will again be in a minority, His Highness will not be tempted to repeat the experiment. It is quite a matter for discussion whether the country, in its present state, is fit to possess a National Assembly, especially one elected on such very liberal principles; but the Assembly exists, and I think it would be a mistake were the Prince to set up his personal authority against the will of the nation, at any rate without having given the Liberal party an opportunity of showing what capacity for governing they possess, especially as signs are not wanting to lead me to believe that they are beginning to see the error of having adopted a programme so exaggerated as the one they put forward last Session.

I have the honour to inclose a Circular addressed by its leaders to the Diplomatic Body here, and an extract from the "Tsiclokupna Bulgaria," or Bulgarian Union, giving a statement of their policy and views on the obligations of Bulgaria, and your Lordship will perceive that there is nothing very alarming in them under their present form.

There is undoubtedly a strong feeling in favour of the union of the Principality with Eastern Roumelia, and I have heard it alleged that one of the reasons for the apathy of the Bulgarians in labouring for the advancement of their country, and for the preference displayed by many of the most capable men for Eastern Roumelia, is to be found in the fact that they consider Bulgaria in her present mutilated form, as they term it, is incapable of much development.

One thing is certain, that for many years, unless Bulgaria conquers her antipathy to foreigners and foreign aid, her only riches will be derived from her agriculture, and even for that she is surrounded on all sides by neighbours whose facilities for producing are equal to hers, and for exporting even greater.

I heard the other day from Mr. Clarke, an American missionary at Samacoff, that his experience of the Liberal party leads him to believe that they would be inclined to treat the Mussulmans with more justice.

In the event of a new Ministry being formed, it is supposed that MM. Natchovits and Grecof would be removed, and that Bishop Clementi, with MM. Balabanow,

Teonomof, Zancof, and Stoyanof, would be amongst its members, but as yet nothing is settled.

The finances of the country are not very flourishing. The Bulgarian Government is very chary in publishing statistics, but the following figures speak for themselves. Under exceptional circumstances her revenue may attain the sum of 25,000,000 fr., of which 12,000,000 fr. are taken by the army, and there remain the Russian indemnity, the demolition of the fortresses, the tribute to the Porte, completion of the railways, and, as Mr. Barkley states, by the 1st of July a sum of 270,000*l.* owing to the Varna Railways Company.

Crimes of violence, excepting in those districts where brigandage exists, or when perpetrated on the unfortunate Mussulmans, are almost unknown, and yet in the numerous villages I have visited in the plain of Sophia, the only visible authority is the Tchorbadji, or head man of the village, who is usually chosen on the ground of being rather richer than the other peasants.

Another subject upon which I must touch before concluding is the influence exercised by Russia in the affairs of this country.

For the moment this influence is supreme, and the fact is not surprising. Besides the army, of which the greater proportion of the officers are Russians, and the Ministry of War, the head of which, General Parantzof, by no means confines himself to matters connected with his own department, there are more or less Russian employés in all the public offices, who, unfortunately, even in the opinion of Russians themselves, do not enjoy a very good reputation. Many of them are suspected of Nihilistic tendencies, and none of them were previously known to fame in their own country.

To a certain extent Russia would seem to be making use of Bulgaria (would?) anteroom to Siberia. The Bulgarians profess to be desirous of freeing themselves from Russian influence, and they may in time succeed in doing so if they find any other Power disposed to take the place of Russia. The Austrian Agent is very indignant at the influence exercised by Russia, and endeavours to curtail it, but, in my humble opinion, he does not go to work in a way calculated to attain his object. I have heard, indirectly, frequent complaints as to the tone he employs both in his written and verbal communications with the Bulgarian Government. The consequence is, according to his own admission, that he has hardly been able to obtain satisfaction in a single one of the numerous cases that he has in hand.

I must confess that I have found both M. Grecof and M. Natchovits, when treated with courtesy and addressed in a language customary in diplomatic communications, open to reason, and ready to do what they could to forward my wishes, but unfortunately they are not always supported by their subordinates.

So much for the present state of Bulgaria; as for her future, it would be presumptious on my part, after so short a residence here, to speak, but if measures could be taken to procure from such nations as would not awaken the jealousy of other Powers men of experience in political matters, and especially of the Prince, of whose loyalty of purpose and excellent qualities there is but one opinion, could find some one fit for the part which Baron Stockmar played in the organization of Belgium, I see no reason why Bulgaria should not become a respectable, if not a very brilliant, member of the European family.

In concluding this report I would crave your Lordship's indulgence if it is not so full as I could have wished, but the shortness of my stay here, the rare occasions which Bulgarian society, as at present constituted, affords for the interchange of ideas or the collection of information, and the absence, owing to the closing of the Chambers, of many public men, will, I trust, serve as my excuse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Extract from the "Tsielokupna Bulgaria" of February 15, 1880.

La Première au "Bulgarski Glas" (Notre Programme).—La langue Bulgare, dont l'essor et la perfection n'ont pu se développer par suite de la situation pénible du pays pendant cinq longs siècles, est aujourd'hui malheureusement presque inconnue en Europe.

La Bulgarie est actuellement libre, une Constitution Libérale nous régit et subordonne

tous nos actes politiques au pouvoir législatif. Comme dans tous les autres pays constitutionnels la force des choses a voulu qu'il se trouvât en Bulgarie des hommes éminents ne partageant pas la même manière de voir et dans l'élaboration des lois et dans leur application.

En Bulgarie, les représentants de l'immense majorité du pays ont leur programme dans les détails duquel nous pénétrerons; la minorité, infiniment petite, a aussi, naturellement, le sien. Nous sommes persuadés que les uns et les autres sont constitutionnels, que tous les citoyens Bulgares respectent et respecteront la Constitution que la magnanime Russie, au prix de son sang et les autres Grandes Puissances ont bien voulu nous octroyer; nous sommes persuadés, d'autre part, que chaque Bulgare possède la même dose de patriotisme; que tous sommes reconnaissant au même degré des bienfaits que l'on nous a accordés.

Et cependant ils s'en trouvent parmi nous qui considèrent comme étant leur apanage exclusif, les idées en harmonie avec celles qui règnent aujourd'hui en Europe.

Ils s'en trouvent qui pensent que l'avenir de notre nation peut être assurée, mais exclusivement par eux.

Ils y en a qui s'imaginent qu'eux seuls sont pénétrés de la situation du pays, qu'ils en comprennent seuls les devoirs qui lui incombent; qu'ils connaissent seuls la portée et l'esprit des obligations que le Traité de Berlin impose à la Bulgarie; et finalement prétendent être seuls à pouvoir les mettre en application.

Ce sont ces mêmes hommes, qui se montrent comme étant indispensables, possédant seuls la modération nécessaire dans les actes d'un Gouvernement constitutionnel, qui font croire d'une façon insidieuse qu'eux seuls considèrent comme un devoir et comme une nécessité la marche en avant de la Bulgarie dans la voie du progrès et de la civilisation; ils se disent les modérés et les intelligents. Ces hommes sont ceux qui inspirent le "Bulgarski Glas."

Nous avons dit en tête de ces lignes que la langue Bulgare n'était pas compris en Europe. Jusqu'ici, en effet, le public Européen, qui de temps en temps daigne jeter un regard sur notre pays, n'a pu le faire qu'au moyen de la lunette que lui offrait si généreusement le "Bulgarski Glas," mais celui-ci présente l'instrument par le gros bout, de sorte que la grande masse Bulgare, qui ne partage pas les idées de notre confrère, semble s'offrir, fort heureusement d'une façon fictive, à la vue du public Européen petite, Lilliputienne, vague, turbulente, et dont les idées sont mesurées à sa taille.

En somme, le "Bulgarski Glas" a fait entendre sa voix; c'est une cloche qui tinte aux oreilles du même public, à celle des hommes d'Etat et Agents diplomatiques accrédités ici; c'est le son de la clochette du soi-disant Conservateur.

Les journaux imprimés en langue Bulgare et qui jouissent de la plus grande autorité dans le pays démasquaient et réfutaient facilement avec grand advantage certain esprit dangereux qui se reflétait entre les lignes du "Bulgarski Glas." Le public Bulgare seul a pu juger la ligne de conduite tenue par notre confrère et par nous. Le public d'Europe ne pu être juge par la raison que nous avons donnée plus haut. Il nous a semblé alors qu'il était de notre devoir de nous servir de la même langue Française dont se sert si largement notre confrère précité, et nous commencerons par protester de toutes nos forces contre les insinuations du "Bulgarski Glas," insinuations qui tendent à discréditer en Europe la majorité de la nation Bulgare, qui jusqu'à ce jour lui avait inspiré une bonne opinion.

Le dit journal nous prêche à chaque instant la modération et la sagesse; d'après lui ces deux qualités "nous feraient défaut."

Et quand avons-nous eu l'occasion de nous montrer à l'Europe, tels que nous sommes?

N'ayant jamais eu le pouvoir, la majorité pouvait-telle se manifester dans ses actes?

Dans tout pays constitutionnel le Gouvernement n'est-il pas entre les mains de la majorité de la nation?

N'est-ce pas un axiome qu'un Ministère constitutionnel et responsable ne peut administrer s'il n'est appuyé par la majorité des Chambres Législatives?

Est-ce le cas en Bulgarie?

* * * * *

Le "Bulgarski Glas" a fait connaître les idées qui guident les hommes qui l'inspirent.

A notre tour, nous considérons comme un devoir de faire connaître les nôtres.

Elles ne les cèdent en rien à celles qui ont été prises pour base par notre confrère.

Nous aussi, nous voulons sincèrement et sans arrière-pensée, l'application stricte des

clauses du Traité de Berlin, qui nous concernent. Nous voulons aussi administrer avec la modération la plus grande que la situation du pays, que nous croyons connaître aussi bien que les autres, nous commande de le faire.

Nous aussi, nous voulons donner amples satisfactions aux exigences du moment.

Nous aussi, nous voulons par nos actes inspirer la confiance aux Puissances qui nous ont créé, et mériter leur bienveillance, leur indulgence, et leur encouragement.

Nous aussi, nous désirons aujourd'hui persuader les Représentants des Puissances que parmi nous ils se trouvent des hommes d'une valeur déjà appréciée, lesquels hommes, malgré qu'ils ne fussent pas rétribués, mais mus par un sentiment de patriotisme, ont préparé et élaboré d'après ce qui a été fait de mieux chez les autres Puissances, et tout en tenant compte de l'état de notre pays, divers lois et règlements qui nous font défaut.

Nous aussi désirons faire appel aux étrangers spécialistes, lesquels nous apprendront dans la marche de nos Administrations ce que l'habitude n'a pu nous donner.

Et nous aussi reconnaissons l'urgence des voies et communications rapides et directes qui développeront notre commerce et notre industrie à peine naissants.

Nous sommes prêts à tout, nous nous imposerons même de lourds sacrifices pour donner satisfaction à toutes les exigences qui dérivent soit du Traité de Berlin soit de l'intérêt public particulier ou général.

Et serons-nous assez aveugles pour ne pas remarquer les branches parasites qui pouvent obstruer notre chemin? S'il y a lieu de modifier avec circonspection et seulement si nous en reconnaissons la nécessité, ne le ferons-nous pas avec la plus grande énergie?

C'est donc nous qui sommes "les constitutionnels, les modérés, les Conservateurs."

Ceux qui veulent renverser brutalement l'état de choses existant s'appellent, dans tout pays constitutionnel: Réactionnaires. Nous le prouverons dans la suite.

Nous n'avons qu'un défaut, c'est celui d'être impatient à faire marcher dans la voie du progrès le char de notre Etat. Nous sommes prêts à prouver, et la chose pour nous sera d'une facilité extrême, que nous sommes dignes de la situation qu'on a bien voulu nous faire et que "nous sommes décidés à conserver."

Aussi aborderons-nous successivement dans cette feuille la discussion des intérêts majeurs qui doivent nous dominer dans l'élaboration de nos lois et règlements sur l'économie politique de notre pays, en rejetant toute discussion futile sur des affaires douteuses et de peu d'importance.

Tout en étant énergiques, nous montrerons jusqu'à quel point peuvent aller nos aptitudes gouvernementales.

Le parallèle pourra être fait hardiment et le jugement que le public portera sur les uns et les autres, sera basé, car les deux cloches auront fait entendre leur son.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Circular of Liberal Party to Diplomatic Body.

M. l'Agent Diplomatique d'Angleterre,

JUSQU'ICI le parti National, Libéral, en même temps que modéré et Conservateur, lequel est formé par la grande majorité de la nation Bulgare, n'a pu se montrer à l'Europe tel qu'il est, soit par la voix de la presse, soit dans le Gouvernement.

Jusqu'ici, M. , c'est-à-dire, depuis la formation du premier Ministère, le pouvoir a été exclusivement gardé par les représentants d'une petite minorité. Profitant du peu de lumière qui a été jetée sur notre pays, et se voyant condamnés par l'opinion publique, ils cherchent depuis quelque temps à rejeter sur la majorité les nombreuses fautes que leur incapacité les a forcément fait commettre depuis qu'ils sont au pouvoir.

Contrairement aux vœux de la nation entière, ces hommes ont accepté le pouvoir et s'obstinent avec une opiniâtreté en dehors des habitudes jusqu'ici, observées, à vouloir le garder malgré la condamnation réitérée de leur conduite par le suffrage universel, et les difficultés sans nombre, qu'ils rencontrent à chaque pas, difficultés qui dérivent d'une façon très-évidente de leurs inaptitudes gouvernementales et de la confiance que la nation ne leur a jamais accordée.

Les questions primordiales qui intéressent réciproquement les pays d'Europe et le nôtre, n'ayant pu être résolues par le Ministère, par suite de cette situation, il en est

résulté un malaise pour la Bulgarie et un manque de satisfaction de la part des Puissances intéressées; nous tenons en conséquence à vous faire connaître par la voix de notre journal "l'Union Bulgare" qui, à cet effet sera en partie imprimé en Français, l'opinion de la majorité sur les questions internationales ou principales, qui n'ont pu être résolues jusqu'ici.

En vous priant, M. , de vouloir bien y porter toute votre attention et considérer notre opinion comme l'expression sincère des sentiments qui animent la majorité de la nation, nous avons, &c.

(Signé) Le Comité de Direction de "l'Union Bulgare."

Sophia, le Mars, 1880.

No. 330.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Sophia, March* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Bulgarski Glas," containing the Circular recently issued by the Minister of the Interior to the Governors of Rustchuk, Varna, and Tirnovo with reference to the measures to be taken by them for the suppression of brigandage by the Turks, which, according to reports published in the same paper, herewith inclosed, is beginning to assume formidable proportions.

Not having heard of these outrages from Mr. Brophy, I have desired him to report to me whether they are true, or whether the measures in question are only adopted with the object of creating fresh annoyance to the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 330.

Extract from "La Voix de la Bulgarie" of March 1, 1880.

VOICI la Circulaire que M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur vient d'envoyer aux Gouverneurs de Roustchouk, Varna, et Tirnovo:—

"Des renseignements multiples et tout-à-fait dignes de foi m'arrive journellement des Gouvernements de Roustchouk, Varna, et Tirnovo, d'après lesquels on voit qu'en beaucoup d'endroits de ces Gouvernements, il y a un grand nombre d'individus parmi les habitants Turcs qui troublent la tranquillité. Ces individus non-seulement sont soutenus, protégés, et nourris par la population Turque, mais encore à cause de son concours, qui se manifeste soit par des secours soit par le recellement des brigands, le nombre des fauteurs de troubles devient chaque jour plus grand, et la sécurité des routes et des habitants dans certains districts devient illusoire. La population Turque, outre qu'elle nourrit et pourvoit à tous les besoins des fauteurs de troubles, encore elle les protége, par tous les moyens, contre les poursuites des autorités. Il y a beaucoup d'exemples où les habitants des villages Turcs ont obstinément refusé de livrer aux autorités les noms des malfaiteurs, qui étaient de leur propre village ou des villages voisins, et où les autorités militaires ou civiles ayant découvert tout-à-fait par hasard les malfaiteurs, il se trouvait que c'étaient les mêmes individus pour lesquels, quelques heures avant, tout le village protestait et assurait qu'ils sont des braves et tranquilles gens.

"Il n'y a pas encore deux semaines, depuis que les Turcs du Touzloue ont refusé de donner tout renseignement sur les malfaiteurs qui avaient assassiné Hussein-Ali et Ali-Redjép, de Dobrudjilar, pillé beaucoup de maisons Turques, battu et torturé les habitants de Kassirgalar et Erevich. Les habitants ont cherché par tous les moyens de détourner de la piste des brigands le 'pristav' de Tirnovo, qui était à leur poursuite. Plus encore: lorsque le 'pristav,' tout-à-fait par hasard, était tombé sur la trace des brigands et les avait enfin trouvés dans un village Turc—Dolne Mustanlari, les villageois ont cherché a le détourner de son chemin, en lui disant que les brigands ne se trouvent pas dans cette maison, mais dans cette autre, située à l'autre extrémité du village, où ils savaient bien que les malfaiteurs n'y étaient pas.

"Lorsque même ce moyen ne leur réussit pas pour cacher les brigands, les habitants même du village ont ouvert des brèches dans les murs de trois maisons où se cachaient les brigands, et ainsi ces derniers ont pu s'éloigner tranquillement.

"Dans les districts d'Osman-Bazar, Razgrad, Provadia, et Bazardjik, les brigands se promènent tranquillement dans les villages Turcs, se nourrissent chez les habitants et reçoivent d'eux tout ce qui leur est nécessaire; attaquent les maisons et la poste, dépouillent les voyageurs et tuent les habitants Chrétiens, quelquefois même des enfants, comme cela est arrivé dans le village Tchaly-Mahale, district de Pravadia; en un mot ils commettent les plus atroces crimes; rentrent tranquillement dans les villages Turcs, et vivent avec les habitants amicalement, parce qu'ils sont leurs parents, leurs amis, leurs voisins, connus à tous et à chacun dans le village.

"Aux interrogations des autorités quels sont les brigands et où se trouvent-ils, les habitants des villages Turcs ont toujours répondus et repondent qu'ils ne savent pas; et en même temps ils préviennent les brigands que l'autorité est à leur recherche, les aident à s'éloigner dans une autre direction, ou les cachent sur le lieu même; comme cela est arrivé dans le village Sandaktchi, district de Pravadia, où les villageois assurèrent les autorités, qui étaient à la poursuite des brigands, que ces derniers avaient quitté le village encore pendant la nuit, tandis qu'ils restaient tranquillement dans une petite forêt à côté même du village, d'où ils avaient la satisfaction de pouvoir voir et entendre comment leurs amis affirmaient aux autorités qu'ils n'y a pas de brigands dans leur village.

"Ces tristes faits, ainsi que le fait plus triste encore que le nombre des bandes et des brigands augmente dès à présent dans de telles proportions qu'on peut craindre que le mal menace non-seulement les endroits où le brigandage existe actuellement, mais toute la contrée; ces faits d'un côté prouvent qu'une grande partie de la population Turque dans la principauté ne veut pas reconnaître le nouvel ordre des choses et entrer dans la voie de l'existence paisible et des occupations régulières, mais soit par habitude, soit par des excitations venant du dehors (nous n'examinerons pas ici cette hypothèse), continue à vivre comme elle a vécu pendant des siècles; d'un autre côté, impose au Gouvernement le devoir de déraciner ce mal par des mesures plus énergiques et plus radicales pouvant amener un résultat désirable. Comme telles le Gouvernement vous recommande pour le moment les mesures suivantes:

"1. Faire promptement et très-exactement un recensement des habitants et des maisons de tous les villages Turcs, dans les districts qui sont déclarés en état de siége.

"2. Demander aux habitants de présenter devant l'autorité, qui fera le recensement, tous leurs voisins et obliger chaque village de prendre la responsabilité de chaque fait, qui serait commis par un habitant de ce village, s'il est pris comme brigand, suivant le huitième point des présentes règles.

"3. D'inscrire, sur des listes à part, toutes les personnes qui ne se trouveront pas présentes lors du recensement, et d'en rechercher la cause de leur absence.

"4. Tous les individus suspects, et qui sont connus à l'Administration à cause de leur conduite, ainsi que ceux qui n'ont pas de domicile stable et une occupation habituelle, et pour lesquels le village ne veut pas prendre la responsabilité, seront inscrits sur une liste à part, et réunis dans un endroit ils seront envoyés sous escorte en Turquie par Varna.

"5. Ordonner aux habitants d'avoir à surveiller toutes les personnes, qui traversent leur village et y passent la nuit; les voyageurs tranquilles et honnêtes doivent être laissés libres; tandis que ceux qui éveillent chez eux des soupçons ou de doutes, ils doivent les arrêter et les livrer immédiatement aux autorités civiles ou militaires. Si les individus qui éveillent leurs soupçons sont nombreux et les habitants du village voient qu'ils ne pourront pas les prendre seuls, le 'Knet' (Maire) ou son adjoint sera tenu d'en donner avis secrètement au poste de police ou militaire le plus rapproché, et demander du secours pour arrêter les brigands.

"6. La population doit en tout cas prêter son concours à la force armée et aux autorités pour découvrir et arrêter les individus suspects et les brigands.

"7. Si les habitants cachent que des brigands ont passé par leur village, ou si les brigands y sont venus, qu'ils y ont passé la nuit et ont reçu des vivres, sans que le poste le plus prochain en soit averti, le village devra payer une amende qui pour la première fois sera de 10 fr. à 25 fr., pour la seconde de 25 fr. à 50 fr., pour la troisième de 50 fr. à 100 fr. par chaque maison. Pour la quatrième fois le 'Knet' et les 'Starcichini' (Conseillers Municipaux) seront traduits devant le Conseil du Guerre comme complices de brigandage. L'amende sera fixée et imposée par les Chefs de District d'accord avec les autorités militaires; elle sera versée dans les Conseils d'Arrondissement.

"8. Les maisons dans lesquels les brigands s'y seraient arrêtés ou y auraient passé la nuit seront immédiatement démolies dès que le fait est prouvé.

"9. Toutes ces mesures doivent être portées à la connaissance de la population de districts qui sont en état de siége, non-seulement verbalement, mais aussi par des placards qui seront collés devant la porte des mosquées et d'autres endroits souvent fréquentés, et de déclarer de la part du Gouvernement qu'un délai d'un mois, à partir de la publication de

ces règles, est accordé à tous de rentrer chez eux et de se livrer à leurs occupations paisibles.

"10. Le recensement des habitants doit être commencé dès que vous aurez reçu la présente Circulaire et sous la surveillance personnelle des Chefs de District, qui seront responsables pour l'application inexacte de ces règles.

"11. Il sera porté à la connaissance de ceux qui sont chargés de l'application de ces mesures, que pour chaque oubli, pour chaque agissement irrégulier, et pour chaque abus dans l'application de ces mesures, ils auront à répondre devant le Conseil de Guerre. Tout doit être fait régulièrement et sans le moindre gêne ni dommage pour les habitants innocents et tranquilles, enfin—

"12. Porter à la connaissance des habitants Chrétiens de districts en état de siége, que pour la moindre injustice commise à l'égard d'un Turc ils seront poursuivis et punis sans pitié par le Conseil de Guerre.

"Telles sont, M. le Gouverneur, les mesures, la mise en application, et l'accomplissement desquelles je recommande pour le moment à votre sollicitude.

"En vous répétant que dans l'application de ces règles vous ne devez pas permettre ni une sévérité cruelle, ni des décisions ou punitions faites à la hâte, ni des violations de la justice, je vous prie de vouloir bien, surtout dans cette circonstance, agir avec beaucoup de prudence et de circonspection, et toujours d'accord avec les autorités militaires.

"Avant tout, vous devez établir une entente avec les autorités militaires sur le point de savoir où et comment fixer les postes militaires, comment assurer leurs approvisionnements, et comment pourront-ils s'entraider avec les hommes de la police placés dans les postes des divers cantons. Vous ne devez pas perdre de vue que les postes militaires et ceux de la police doivent être placés de manière à ce qu'ils ne soient pas à une très-grande distance les uns des autres. Cela est indéspensable pour une facile entente et pour une commune et concordante action.

"Pleinement convaincu que vous mettrez tous vos efforts et toute la prudence nécessaire pour mener à une heureuse fin cette question, j'ai l'honneur de vous témoigner ma très-haute considération."

"Le Ministre de l'Intérieur,

"*Sophia, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Février*, 1880. (Signé) "T. ICONOMOFF."

Inclosure 2 in No. 330.

Extract from the "Bulgarski Glas."

M. le Ministre Iconomoff, *Varna, le* 24 *Février*, 1880.

UNE nouvelle bande de brigands, bien armés et à cheval, composée de trente personnes, a passé de la Roumanie en Bulgarie dans le district de Dobroudja-Silistrie, a attaqué deux villages, a dépouillé un Bulgare. Le Chef de District a pris les mesures nécessaires. De ma part, j'ai demandé le concours immédiat du Chef du district militaire d'Est, une troupe de cavaliers pour le Chef du district de Silistrie. Notre Gouvernement devrait immédiatement communiquer au Gouvernement Roumain ces tristes désordres et ces malheurs qui arrivent dans nos limites de la part de Turcs habitant la Roumanie; il faudrait que les deux Gouvernements voisins s'entendent pour placer un cordon sur la frontière.

(Signé) Gouverneur STOYANOFF.

M. le Ministre Iconomoff, *Varna, le* 24 *Février*, 1880.

A l'instant j'ai reçu un télégramme de H. O. Bazardjik. Des brigands ont tué quatre Bulgares dans les environs de Fyndicli; des individus suspects sont arrêtés. Je transmets aux Chefs de District les instructions nécessaires.

(Signé) Gouverneur STOYANOFF.

M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur, *Silistrie, le* 24 *Février*, 1880.

Il y a cinq jours une bande de neuf personnes, et depuis trois jours une autre de trente personnes, ont passé de Dobroudja et ont commis déjà des pillages et des assassinats; pour tout cela j'ai annoncé déjà au Gouverneur de Varna. Je poursuis ces bandes avec les gens de la police, qui ne sont pas très-nombreux, et je ne puis espérer du succès. Les autorités Roumaines des contrées limitrophes ne donnent aucune attention au passage de ces bandes, qui sont assez nombreuses dans la Dobroudja, et se préparent à passer la frontière. En vue de cela je prévois des grands dangers, qui peuvent être écartés seulement si on envoit

ici une sotnia de cavalerie et encore une droujina, et si on me donne encore un "pristav énergique. J'ai communiqué cela à M. le Gouverneur de Varna.

(Signé) Chef de District Ivantchoff.

Rapport.

M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur,

Le Chef du district de Rasgrad, par son télégramme du 14, communique que, pendant la nuit du 13 courant, des brigands Turcs ont attaqué dans le village Karagatch le "strajer" Tyrpo Mihailoff, qu'ils ont gravement blessé. A la suite de cela j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer, M. le Ministre, que j'ai ordonné des mesures énergiques pour la poursuite des brigands.

Pour le Gouverneur,
(Signé) B. ZOLOTOVITCH.

Roustchouk, le 21 *Février*, 1880.

No. 331.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 20, 1880.

IN my preceding number, dated yesterday, I gave a summary analysis of the speech of the Minister for Foreign Affairs in connection with the Budget question. I have now the honour to inclose, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes," a more detailed report of what M. Delyanni said on that occasion relative to the Frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

QUESTION DES FRONTIÈRES: DÉCLARATION DE M. LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES.—Dans le discours qu'il a prononcé le $\frac{9}{10}$ Mars, en réponse au discours de M. Tricoupi, M. Delyanni, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, s'est exprimé ainsi sur la question des frontières.

"Ayant eu l'honneur de représenter la Grèce au Congrès de Berlin, j'ai cru remplir un devoir sacré en faisant ressortir la nécessité de faire aussi quelque chose pour l'autre nationalité Chrétienne de l'Orient et de faire disparaître, par conséquent, le danger que les réformes administratives en Turquie auraient laissé subsister. La prévoyance montrée par le Congrès, par le Protocole No. 13, prouve que l'Europe n'est pas indifférente au sort de la nationalité Hellénique. Si nos vœux avaient été exaucés, l'Epire, la Thessalie, et Candie auraient été annexées au Royaume de Grèce.

"Cela, malheureusement, n'a pas eu lieu. Le Congrès a juge néanmoins nécessaire l'annexion de quelques contrées, et nous n'avons pas eu à désespérer de la prévoyance de l'Europe dans l'avenir. Il y avait des hommes croyant que toute concession territoriale aurait affaibli la Turquie. Mon opinion était que cette concession était aussi nécessaire à la Turquie pour le réglement de sa situation intérieure; d'après moi, les concessions territoriales fortifiaient plutôt qu'elles n'affaiblissaient la Turquie, à cause de la triste situation des provinces qu'elle était invitée à céder à la Grèce. Cette opinion prévalut, et le Protocole No. 13 fut adopté. Ceux qui croyaient ne pas connaître les bienfaits qui auraient pu résulter des réformes administratives, tournèrent leurs regards d'un autre côté. Cela arriva même à Athènes et l'on m'a représenté comme un homme ayant trahi les intérêts du pays et de l'Hellénisme. Quant à moi, j'ai préféré l'Epire et la Thessalie.

"Le Congrès done, qui a reconnu l'autonomie de la Bulgarie, l'indépendance de la Roumanie, de la Serbie, et du Monténégro, a admis aussi l'annexion de quelques contrées à la Grèce.

"Après la clôture du Congrès, elle s'est empressée de remplir son devoir, devoir qui lui était imposé par cette époque critique et troublée. D'après les prescriptions du Protocole, toute tentative devait être faite pour en amener l'exécution. D'après des renseignements, que l'on a bien voulu me communiquer avec courtoisie, la question des frontières approche de sa solution."

No. 332.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 142. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 23, 1880.

IT appears that M. Bratiano was the bearer of a letter from Prince Charles of Roumania to Prince Bismarck, and I hear on reliable authority that its object was to solicit his advice, consent, and support in regard to the title of King which His Royal Highness aspires to, and which the Roumanian Legislature are expected to confer upon him some day by acclamation.

Since the Railway Convention has been settled according to his wishes, Prince Bismarck would be glad that Roumania joined the Austro-German alliance against Russia, and he will no doubt support the scheme and advocate it at Vienna if Austria sees no serious objection to Prince Charles' ambition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 333.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 144. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 24, 1880.

SINCE telegraphing to your Lordship, I learn that M. Bratiano has given up the idea of going to Paris, and has, instead, gone to Neuwied and Sigmaringen to discuss the Roumanian Succession question with Prince Charles' family, about which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 38 of the 20th January, 1879.

Baron Haymerle having expressed a wish to see him again, M. Bratiano will return viâ Vienna to Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 334.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 145. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 25, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 142 and 144, Secret, of the 23rd and 24th instant, I asked Prince Bismarck privately what he thought of Prince Charles' aspirations to the title of King of Roumania.

Prince Bismarck replied that, in answer to a query of his, M. Bratiano had spoken of it as a Conservative measure, which would meet with the support of the Legislature, but which was not yet sufficiently ripe for submission to the Powers.

In reply to M. Bratiano's counter queries, he, Prince Bismarck, had said that Germany was indifferent to the question, and would be entirely guided by Austria in the matter if Prince Charles should see fit to press it. He thought it would be opposed by Russia, but he did not know how the other Signatory Powers might view the proposal to make a kingdom of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 335.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 109 of the 18th instant, on the Agrarian Law which has recently been passed in Servia, M. de Radowitz tells me that after a careful examination of the law and of the Austrian objections to it, the German Government are of opinion that the view taken by the Austrian Government is correct, and that Prince Bismarck is willing to support their remonstrance at Belgrade on the subject.

Count Münster had been instructed, M. de Radowitz said, to express a hope to your Lordship that Her Majesty's Government would also support the remonstrance of the Austrian Government, the law being opposed to the spirit of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 336.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 25, 1880.

M. DE GIERS has intimated to me that with regard to the Arab-Tabia question the Russian Government would bow to the decision of the majority of the Commission, but that they would probably issue a declaration setting forth the unreasonableness and inconvenience of the arrangement determined upon.

He added that Austria was endeavouring to induce them to forego their determination in this respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 337.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 25, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the accompanying despatch which has been addressed to me by Colonel Villiers, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Lieutenant-Colonel Villiers to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russian Government consider that in three points their army was defective during the Turco-Russian war. These points are as follows:—

1. The Intelligence Branch, in so far as railways were concerned.
2. Commissariat and means of transport.
3. Want of range in their field artillery.

It appears that when the late war broke out some railway schemes had been prepared, but when they attempted to work them out practically, it was discovered that they were of no sort of use; the consequence naturally was that great delay and confusion occurred in

concentrating the troops on the Turkish frontier. Immediately after the war Sub-Commissions were formed to report on all the railways of Russia, and their collective Reports, when printed, fill eight quarto volumes of 500 pages each. On this mass of information a Supreme Commission is now sitting, and it is believed that the final Report will be ready about August next. At any rate, your Lordship may be sure that the Russian authorities have not yet even decided upon the best way to work their railways (in a military point of view), much less made the necessary additions to their rolling stock, to make a large and rapid concentration of troops on any part of the frontier.

With regard to the commissariat and transport trains, Commissions are still sitting on these subjects, and nothing definite has as yet been decided.

The fault of the artillery was its want of range. This deficiency was most seriously felt during the late campaign, their bronze guns proving most inferior. To remedy this, Baron Krupp was applied to about 18 months ago, the first order being for 1,650 steel guns. The great German firm has completed the order, and the guns have been handed over to the Russians. Two months ago Krupp was again applied to, and a further order given for 250 more field-guns of the same pattern. It is believed that these guns will be delivered before the manœuvres begin in May. In the meantime the Russian arsenal at Oboukoff has not been idle, and by August of this year it is believed that Russia will be able to turn out 3,500 guns (namely, the whole of their field artillery) of the new pattern.

Whilst rich in artillery, the Russian army compares unfavourably with her neighbours in the cavalry branch of the service. Germany has 600 squadrons, Austria the same, while Russia has but 400 squadrons of regular cavalry. Russia has undoubtedly any number of irregular cavalry regiments, but the experience of the late war has led the Russians to put small value on their irregular cavalry regiments. A Commission was formed after the war to look into this matter. Their Report will in a few days be sent to the Minister of War. I hear, on very good authority, that the Commission recommend that each cavalry regiment be raised from 4 to 6 squadrons, exclusive of the depôt squadron. This recommendation, if carried out, would place quite 50,000 more regular cavalry at the disposal of the Czar.

With regard to the distribution of the troops in Russia, your Lordship has already been informed of the position on the western frontier. The army of the Caucasus consists of 7 divisions of infantry, 7 brigades of artillery, and 3 divisions of cavalry; the 40th Division of Infantry having lately been withdrawn, the army of the Caucasus remains the same as it was before the late war, except that two divisions of infantry, instead of one, are now kept on war footing, and that there are only one Cossack regiment in each of the 1st and 2nd Divisions of Cavalry, and two in the 3rd Division, the remainder being regular cavalry.

I cannot furnish your Lordship with any reliable information at present as to the distribution of the army in Turkestan.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE VILLIERS, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 338.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Sir Julian Pauncefote.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, March* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch of this date, inclosing a telegram from Sir Henry Layard.

I beg to observe that in again communicating with him on this subject, it might be well to apprise him that the only part of the Turco-Persian frontier with which I shall have to deal will be the boundary of Kotour, and that the share of the Persian Government in the matter will be to accept that territory whenever the Turkish Government may proceed to act on the recommendation of the Russian and British Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 339.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29, 3·10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 29, 1880, 2·10 P.M.

KING'S present intention is to spend some months at Corfu this summer. Foreign Ministers in that case also. I beg to know if I may go with family to Corfu in event of King doing so, and on what conditions.

No. 340.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, March* 30.)

Sublime Porte, le 18 *Mars*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

DES renseignements dignes de foi parvenus au Gouvernement Impérial signalent des actes de la plus criante injustice commis journellement par les autorités Bulgares au détriment de la population Mussulmane.

La situation qui est faite à cette malheureuse population engage la Sublime Porte à élever encore une fois la voix et à faire appel aux sentiments d'humanité et de justice des Grandes Puissances.

Je viens donc prier votre Excellence d'appeler la sérieuse attention de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Angleterre sur les faits relatés dans le mémoire ci-joint, et de faire auprès de lui les démarches nécessaires pour qu'il veuille bien s'employer en vue de la cessation d'un état de choses si déplorable.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS.

Inclosure in No. 340.

Mémoire.

LA ville de Sofia comptait avant les derniers événements environ 3,800 habitants, dont 1,850 appartenant au Musulman. Lors de l'émigration précipitée de ceux-ci la plupart de leurs maisons ont été démolies par ordre de l'autorité, après une estimation factice de leur valeur. Les terrains de ces bâtisses ont été ensuite mis en vente par lots et à divers prix. Les propriétaires réclament, à leur retour, leurs immeubles ; l'autorité fait semblant de vouloir les dédommager aux prix de l'estimation ; mais il n'en est rien. Une partie des habitations Musulmanes laissées debout sert de logement aux familles Bulgares qui immigrent du dehors et aux fonctionnaires du Gouvernement. L'autre partie est occupée par les services et administrations de l'Etat. Les Musulmans, en rentrant dans leur pays, trouvèrent ainsi leurs propriétés en la possession d'autrui. S'ils se décident à tenter des démarches pour obtenir justice, on prend prétexte de réparations insignifiantes faites, en leur absence, à leurs immeubles pour réclamer de ce chef des indemnités exorbitantes dépassant souvent la valeur même de l'immeuble entier. Les experts officiels ne font pas plus de difficultés lorsqu'il s'agit de délivrer de faux certificats à l'appui de pareilles prétentions.

Les propriétaires Musulmans d'immeubles, tels que khans, boutiques, moulins et autres, rencontrent aussi les plus grandes difficultés à rentrer en possession de leurs biens, et les loyers perçus pendant leur absence ne leur sont pas restitués. Les titres et actes de propriété ne sont admis comme valables sans qu'ils soient corroborés par le témoignage des Bulgares. Ceux de ces propriétaires qui, étant parvenus à reprendre leurs biens, entreprennent de les vendre, se voient obligés de rembourser indûment différentes sommes à tel ou tel titre.

Le témoignage des Bulgares en faveur des droits des propriétaires Musulmans n'est pas chose facile à obtenir. Il faut traiter avec les moukhtars et subir toutes leurs exigences, en faisant parfois des donations à certaines églises, éparchies, &c. Les forêts appartenants à des particuliers sont exploitées par les paysans sans vergogne.

Des quarante mosquées de Sofia, partie a été démolie, partie transformée en hôpital, caserne, et imprimerie. Celle sise près de l'ancien konak notamment a été démolie pour être remplacée, dit-on, par une chapelle destinée à l'usage du Prince.

La sécurité n'existe pour les Musulmans que dans les grandes villes ; personne n'ose se risquer en campagne. Cadri Agha, un des notables qui résidait par exception à Talishman, village proche de Sofia, a eu, il y a une quinzaine de jours, sa maison attaquée nuitamment par des malfaiteurs. Il a été blessé et maltraité, et se trouve alité jusqu'à présent. Les recherches de l'autorité pour découvrir les coupables n'ont eu aucun résultat.

Des faits analogues sont journellement signalés de toutes les autres parties de la Principauté.

No. 341.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 29, 1880, 10 P.M.

YESTERDAY the Council of Ministers determined upon accepting the proposal of Prince of Montenegro in the Gusinjé question with some modification of the proposed frontier-line between Lake of Scutari and the sea. It now rests with the Sultan to approve the Council's recommendation. There appears to be some chance of an arrangement, and Count Corti will defer his departure if he thinks that he can bring one about.

No. 342.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.[*]

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 30, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

ADMIRALTY report that Her Majesty's ship "Hart" has left Jeddah, but that the "Philomel" proceeds there, and "Eclipse" is under orders to call there.

No. 343.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, March* 31, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a telegram from Lord Dufferin stating that M. Giers does not propose to commence the delimitation of that portion of the Turkish frontier in Asia in which I am to take part till June, on account of the officers destined for that service being now employed on another part of that boundary.

Upon which I would beg to observe—

1. That the understanding on the part of the British Commissioner when the Commission adjourned last year was that the work should begin as soon as the season should permit, and all my preparations have been made accordingly.

2. That there is no obvious reason why the different parts of the frontier should be delimited by the same officers.

3. That so long a postponement would cause the Commission to lose the best working part of the season, the very hot weather beginning with July.

I would therefore suggest that in bringing these circumstances before the Russian Government, a representation should be made of the unfitness of expecting that the British Government should wait for its co-operation in this important matter during an uncertain period, and at great inconvenience, accompanied by a request that it will appoint a Commissioner to meet me at Erzeroum not later than the 15th May, and a notification that the British Commissioner will, in any case, receive instructions to be there by that date, in order to furnish his Government with information as to the line of frontier he would be prepared to recommend.

At the same time it would be highly preferable for all parties that the members of the Commission should view the ground together, and it is therefore to be hoped that the Russian Government will allow of this being done.

[*] Also to Mr. Malet.

In connection with this matter it is very desirable that the Russian Government should state its intention with respect to my proposal concerning the cession of Khotour, and whether it will appoint an officer to meet me at Constantinople on that business, and when he will arrive; because, if much delay is to be expected in that matter, it might probably be advisable to postpone it till after my return to Constantinople from Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 344.

Consul Everett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Erzeroum, March* 30, 1880.

I RECEIVED 100*l.* from Lady Strangford's donation. Hearing of distress in Passin district, I hastened there with 100*l.*, accompanied by missionaries with 50*l.*; visited thirteen villages and relieved eighteen—three villages at starting-point, and others close upon it; distributed barley in proportion to size of family.

More distress Turkish villages than in Armenia. Pounds exchanged at 108½ piastres. Amount bought with Lady Strangford's money—29 somars 5 goth, at 370 piastres the somar. The somar equals 12 bushels. I relieved 418 families, or 2,278 souls. More money urgently required; distress increasing daily.

No. 345.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 30, 1880, 11 P.M.

GIERS has just written to inform me that the Asiatic Delimitation Commission cannot be set to work until June, as the Russian officers who are to take part in it will be occupied till then in delimitating the first portion of new frontier.

No. 346.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 31, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 31, 1880, 3·10 P.M.

THE horrors asserted to have been committed by the militia and gymnasts of Eastern Roumelia upon the Mussulmans of district of Kirdjali almost approach those of Batak. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte will insist that Commissioners be appointed to inquire into them. Would it not be very desirable that it should be a Mixed International Commission? A despatch from Mr. Michell, describing the atrocities committed, including the violation and murder of a number of women and girls, will go to you by to-day's messenger.

No. 347.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. L. Gould.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16 of the 29th February, and have perused the translation of the Agrarian Bill lately passed by the Skuptchina which was inclosed therein with observations bearing on its provisions by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker.

I sent you a telegram this day to the effect that if the Governments of Austria and Germany should send instructions to their Representatives at Belgrade to make representations to the Servian Government against the Agrarian Law, you should associate yourself with them in that course of action.

I have informed Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin and Vienna that I have sent you the above instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.